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Likud member meets PLO envoy

TEL AVIV (R) — A senior member of Israel's Likud party met Palestinian Organisation (PLO) representatives at a Vienna conference on the Middle East at the weekend, participants said Monday. Likud Central Committee member Elia Hahali gave his backing to a conference communique calling for a settlement of the regional conflict based on mutual recognition and peaceful coexistence between Israel and a Palestinian state, he said. The rightist Likud, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, is the ruling member of Israel's ruling coalition and has always refused to talk to the PLO. Ari Yaffee, international secretary of Israel's small Mafdal party, said it was the first time a Likud member had publicly met PLO representatives. Hahali returned to Israel from Vienna Sunday and was not available for comment. The 14-member Palestinian delegation to the conference was headed by PLO Executive Committee member Abdelaziz Al Yabys. The meeting was organised by an informal European Middle East study group funded by the European Commission and the West German Foreign Ministry.

Iraq denies nuclear reports

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nayef Jassem Monday denied foreign press reports that Iraq is producing nuclear and chemical warheads for missiles, Baghdad Radio reported. "Iraq has neither the will nor the capability to produce nuclear weapons and has no intention whatsoever to produce chemical warheads for its missiles," Jassem said in a statement broadcast by the radio and monitored in Nicosia. Jassem said Iraq did not need such weapons to defend itself. "We only need conventional weapons to defend ourselves," he stressed. He warned Israel against attacking Iraq's nuclear installations. "Those who are planning for any aggression against Iraq should carefully note the warning made by Iraqi officials in the past," he said. Israeli fighter-bombers attacked a nuclear power station under construction near Baghdad in June 1981, claiming the French-built plant would be used to provide Iraq with a military nuclear capability. Jassem said that the claims Iraq was producing nuclear and chemical weapons were being widely reported by the Israeli media to justify a possible aggression against Iraq.

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Palestinians boycott jobs; Israeli army besieges Beit Sahour

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Thousands of Palestinians from the occupied territories boycotted jobs inside Israel Monday as the army maintained a curfew on a town at the heart of the civil disobedience campaign. The army extended a curfew on the town of Beit Sahour, a second day after arresting 11 and religious leaders said of organising a tax boycott. Palestinian news agencies reported troops made 15 arrests in the night in the mainly Christian town and cut telephone lines (see 2).

Local officials said few of the 60,000 Gazans who commute to jobs in Israel left for work after the curfew. The 18-month-old uprising is a two-day boycott to fight Israeli occupation. The Israeli army began issuing the curfew orders last month in a move to deprive Palestinians involved in the resistance activities of the right to work in the Jewish state. Most of the town's income comes from the sale of vegetables. In the early weeks of the uprising, local activists organised "victory gardens" in an effort to make the community self-sufficient in vegetables. In an unprecedented act of defiance last July, dozens of residents turned in their Israeli-issued identity cards at the town hall and said they wanted nothing more to do with Israel. Tax collectors backed by

troops have raided the town at midnight several times recently, impounding television sets, cars and electrical appliances to force residents to pay taxes. Local activists in the Bethlehem area have called a 10-day strike and demonstrations in protest at the tax raids on Beit Sahour.

Terrorist threat

An Israeli legislator said on Monday he has started to carry a pistol after being threatened by rightist terrorists opposing his views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "There are very specific threats, telephone calls, letters, saying 'We shall kill you, we shall harm your family,'" Abraham Burg of the Labour Party said in an interview with the AP. "I live in a secluded place and I also travel a lot," Burg said. "Politically, I'm at the forefront of the struggle against the radicals. That's why I'm carrying a pistol at all times." Burg, the son of a former interior and police minister, Yosef Burg, belongs to the dovish wing of the centre-left party and is known as a supporter of a far-reaching territorial compromise as a way of solving the Palestinian problem. He said that threats from the right-wing extremists seem to be linked to his frequent radio and television interviews, and that "they follow immediately."



Fight for freedom... a young Palestinian in Hebron trying to force him into their jeep. The soldiers eventually forced him into the jeep

King on extensive tour of army units

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday spent the whole night inspecting the formations of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and following the course of military exercises conducted by one of the division's units early Monday. The King also visited the Fifth Royal Armoured Division, where he was briefed on the division's duties and tasks. The King concluded his tour by visiting the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division, where he was received by senior officials and was briefed about training exercises of the division. The King was accompanied by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fahd Abu Taleb.

U.S. protests attack on Peking apartments

PEKING (Agencies) — The U.S. embassy filed a protest Monday for what it called the deliberate and premeditated army attack last month on the apartments of U.S. diplomats and other foreigners. The move was likely to worsen relations between the two countries that have already been made tense by U.S. criticism of China's crackdown on pro-democracy student protesters. Meanwhile, two Taiwanese reporters said a colleague was taken away by Chinese security forces after he reportedly met with fugitive student leader Wang Dan. The reporters said they feared Wang also was arrested. Huang Debei, of the independence evening news of Taipei, was bundled into a car and taken away by machine-gun-toting soldiers and police as he left a hotel in the city centre Monday, said a colleague from the same paper who was pushed away during the incident. Authorities provided no information on Huang's whereabouts or the reason for his detention, but colleagues linked it to his contacts with Wang. Wang and several other wanted students have been in hiding since the bloody suppression of the pro-democracy movement a month ago. Some have fled abroad to escape the subsequent crackdown. U.S. Charge d'Affaires Raymond Burghardt delivered the note of protest about the shooting incident to the Foreign Ministry, which did not immediately respond, said embassy spokesman Shendan Bell. Chinese soldiers fired hundreds of bullets into the Jiaomengwan apartment compound June 6, a day after the U.S. embassy gave refuge to two Chinese dissidents, Fang Lizhi and his wife, Li Shuxian. A U.S. embassy report on the shooting charged it was premeditated but did not link it to China's anger over U.S. protection of Fang and Li. The United States filed one protest shortly after the shooting. However, the new protest challenges for the first time the Chinese account that the soldiers were responding to sniper fire from within the apartment compound.

Sudan junta widens net; Mahdi elusive

RO (Agencies) — Sudan's leaders widened the crack-down on former government officials but said Prime Minister Abdelaziz Al Mahdi had so far fled capture. The head of the 15-man military junta, General Omar Hassan al-Bashir, was quoted by state radio Omdurman Monday as saying 30 people had been detained, 10 more than Sunday's list of names, but Mahdi was still at large. A member of the junta urged public to turn in Mahdi and reward offers. Bashir said he thought the fugitives were still in Sudanese capital Khartoum. Radio Omdurman said Khartoum airport had reopened for national flights. It had been closed since the Friday coup except for pilgrimage flights to Mecca. A foreign correspondent Alfred reported from Khartoum that the sprawling city of seven million people was busy with businesses operating normally. Diplomats said the mystery

surrounding Mahdi's fate had led to speculation that he might have been executed but the news was being withheld to prevent possible violent reaction against the junta by his supporters. "Mahdi was not killed," Bashir has said. "Contrary to what has been reported by some sources, he has not been arrested so far." He said Mahdi, in office since Sudan's first free polls for nearly two decades were held in 1986, would be caught soon. Taban reported Friday that he and several other people saw Mahdi being driven to Khartoum's Kobar prison shortly after the announcement of the coup. Telephone and telex links, with the outside world, restored 24 hours after they were cut Friday, remained erratic. Bashir, 45, a little known brigadier until Friday's coup, has imposed a state of emergency, suspended the constitution, dissolved parliament, abolished political parties and trade unions and stopped all non-military newspapers from publishing. He has vowed never to allow

political parties to return and accused their leaders of corruption and embezzlement of public funds. Libya and Egypt have sent officials to Khartoum to sound out the country's new military strongman on his intentions. The Sudan News (SUNA) reported Monday that Bashir met separately with the envoys on Sunday. The agency said they discussed bilateral relations. The envoys headed the first two foreign delegations to visit Sudan since Bashir, then a brigadier, and 14 other middle-level officers overthrew Mahdi. Egypt became Saturday the first country to recognise the military government. It's relations with Mahdi were cool at best. Libya, until recently not even on speaking terms with Egypt, has acknowledged the coup in its media but has not extended official recognition. Tripoli had been a firm backer of Mahdi and was the first to recognise the military coup in 1985 that led to his return as premier one year later. Egypt's Middle East News



Omar Hassan Al Bashir Agency (MENA) Monday quoted Bashir as telling the Egyptian envoy he would reform trade unions but he gave no details. The envoy, identified by diplomats as intelligence chief Hassan Amin Nimr, assured Bashir of Egyptian and Arab support. MENA said. Mohammad Magzoub, representing Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi said after his meeting with Bashir that they "reviewed a number of important issues of concern to the two countries." Strains in Egypt's relations with Mahdi grew largely from Cairo's refusal to hand over former President Jaafar Numeiri, who was stranded there by the 1985 coup.

Gromyko, Soviet veteran, dies at 79

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Andrei A. Gromyko, who survived five Kremlin leadership changes and weathered the dramatic twists and turns of East-West relations in a half-century of public life, has died at age 79. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who succeeded the grim-faced Gromyko as president of the Soviet Union Oct. 1, announced the statesman's death to the Supreme Soviet legislature Monday. TASS and Radio Moscow reported. "The deputies at the session, with a minute of silence, paid homage to the memory of the outstanding government and party leader," Radio Moscow said. TASS said Gromyko was "one of the major Soviet diplomats and statesmen of the senior generation" and added that the country "lost one of its most prominent leaders." Soviet news reports said the man who oversaw Soviet foreign policy for 28 years died Sunday. The cause of death was not announced, but a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday that Gromyko was hospitalised in satisfactory condition after undergoing surgery for a vascular problem that was not further identified. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said a commission was being formed to arrange a funeral. He said arrangements would not interfere with Gorbachev's plans to travel to France Tuesday for a three-day visit, or a trip Thursday to attend a two-day summit of the Warsaw Pact in Romania. Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov will preside over the funeral. Ryzhkov told foreign reporters at the Supreme Soviet that Gromyko would be interred in Moscow's Novo-Dievichy cemetery — and not in the Kremlin Wall as diplomats had earlier speculated. "That was what he wanted," Ryzhkov said. The prime minister, a senior member of the party's ruling politburo, said Gromyko's body would lie in state before



Andrei Gromyko the funeral for the public to pay last respects — probably in the Soviet Army House near central Moscow. As a diplomat, ambassador and foreign minister, Gromyko helped forge the Soviet-American World War II Alliance, joined in drafting the U.N. Charter and sat in on superpower talks that shaped the face of the modern world. Gromyko survived several purges and ousted Soviet leaders Joseph Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev, Leonid I. Brezhnev, Yuri V. Andropov and Konstantin U. Chernenko. His career covered a period in which nine U.S. presidents were in office, from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George Bush. He served as Soviet ambassador to the United States, Britain and the United Nations, which he helped found. After Gorbachev rose to power in March 1985 and revamped the leadership, Gromyko was gradually eased into retirement. He ended his career gracefully, unlike many other Soviet officials who were abruptly stripped of posts and written out of official history books as new Kremlin chiefs came on board. Gromyko proclaimed strong support of Gorbachev's reforms and maintained official respect even though some of the foreign policy decisions taken during his tenure — such as the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan — were condemned. But he did not go unscathed. At a party conference last summer, one delegate said Gromyko and other officials still in the leadership who had shaped policy during the period of stagnation, as the Brezhnev years are known, should resign. The call was rebuffed.

Greek coalition begins cleansing government

ATHENS (R) — The new Greek coalition began work Monday in cleaning up government with Prime Minister Tsanis Zannetakis vowing that a series of financial scandals would be investigated "in full and in depth." "The only purpose of this government is to have the law on the responsibility of former ministers lifted and to hand over the guilty to justice," Zannetakis told reporters. The scandals which have dogged the Socialists for the past 10 months include the embezzlement of \$200 million at the private Bank of Crete. George Koskotas, the former owner of the bank sought for fraud and embezzlement, fled in November and is jailed in the United States pending extradition hearings. He has accused Socialist ministers of pocketing millions of dollars in interest payments from state accounts at the bank. Eight ministers resigned or were fired. "The Koskotas scandal is only the tip of the iceberg," Justice Minister Fotis Kovelis, one of two Communist ministers in the 22-strong cabinet, told reporters. akis agreed to form a coalition after the inconclusive June 18 elections. "It is not a pleasant job to throw people in jail but Greece must be freed from the weight of the scandals," Mitsotakis told reporters. The conservative-communist coalition has given itself three months to begin prosecutions after which it has pledged to hold fresh elections. Zannetakis, 62, a former submarine captain, became prime minister after conservative New Democracy Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis and Communist Party chief Harilaos Flor

Amal-Hizbollah flare-up adds to Arab League woes in Lebanon

RUT (Agencies) — Warring Muslim factions fought battles in west Beirut for a second day Monday while Syrian-led militiamen and gunners to army commander Michel Aoun duelled with artillery, sniping Arab and Soviet efforts to end the bloodletting. A crump of rocket-propelled grenades and the crackle of machine gunfire echoed across capital's western sector as Iranian fundamentalists of the Allah (Party of God), and Shiite militiamen battled in the central districts of Batrakieh, Ain Mreisseh. There had been no report of casualties in the fighting that broke out at a.m. (0600 GMT) and raged four hours. Three people were killed and wounded in 15 hours of street

battles Sunday, the first major clash between the rival factions for months. Hizbollah and the secular Amal have been fighting for mastery of Lebanon's one-million-strong Shiite community, the country's largest sect. The power struggle so far has killed 564 people and wounded 1,560 since it erupted in April last year. Stepping up their drive to end the conflict in Lebanon, three Arab foreign ministers took their peace plan to Baghdad Monday, after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Iraq reaffirms offer In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told the envoys that there would be no peace in Lebanon until all foreign forces, including the Syrians, withdrew, informed official source reported. He also called for an end to outside interference in Lebanese

affairs when he met with the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. Hussein stressed he believes all foreign forces in Lebanon should pull out. While Syria has 40,000 troops deployed there, the Israelis also occupy a border strip in South Lebanon and Iran has some 3,500 revolutionary guards in Syrian-controlled east Lebanon. Iraq promised Saturday to stop supplying Aoun with weapons. Syria demands that arms shipments to Aoun halt before it will halt its shelling of ports and lift the siege on Aoun-controlled areas. INA reported that Hussein reiterated the Iraqi stand that it will stop sending weapons to Aoun if Syria withdraws the 40,000 troops it has deployed in Lebanon. The Syrian Arab News Agency

reported Sunday without elaboration that Assad told the Arab envoys that Damascus "would provide every possible assistance to the Lebanese brothers to achieve national entente and... and national solution that will put an end to the bizarre situation." Aoun said in an interview published Monday that his country's war could be resolved only through the United Nations, casting doubt that the Arab League could end the bloodshed. The U.S. ambassador to Syria said Monday that Syria has an important role to play in arranging a peace settlement in Lebanon but should withdraw its troops, along with Israeli forces, once peace is achieved. Edward Djerdjian said the first step to a Lebanese solution must be taken by the Lebanese who must agree on elections and reforms, create a central government that can extend its authority over all Lebanese territory.

مجلس الوزراء

Algeria takes historic step towards multi-party democracy

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria has taken an historic step towards multi-party democracy, adopting a law that allows the creation of new political parties outside the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

The Law on Political Associations, passed by the National Assembly Sunday after weeks of often stormy debate, is the cornerstone of reforms launched by President Chadli Benjedid after bloody riots shook the country last October.

A separate electoral law due for adoption later this month will allow the new parties to compete in free elections for the first time since independence from France in 1962.

"We have entered a new phase in the history of our country," Interior Minister Abu Bakr Belkaid told the assembly after the vote.

"The democracy of all of us is that which... stems from political diversity and allows all sectors of this nation to express their opinions and participate effectively in running the affairs of the country."

The assembly also adopted a law on prices that significantly reduces the role of the state in the economy, part of parallel reforms designed to liberalise economic life and dismantle 27 years of state socialism.

Algerians approved a new constitution last February that charted the country's new political and economic course after riots broke out last year over worsening economic conditions.

A final vote tally was not immediately available but adoption of the two laws, the first to implement the new constitution, suggested a major victory for reformists in the FLN-dominated assembly over old guard elements that had resisted change.

Groups ranging from far-left Trotskyists to Islamic fundamentalists have already applied for legal status and officials say the first free elections will be held at the local level late this year or early next year.

The law forbids the creation of parties based exclusively on a particular religion, language, region, sex, race or profession. It also forbids parties from advocating violence, extremism or fanaticism.

Some deputies expressed concern these clauses would rule out Islamic fundamentalist parties. Belkaid said earlier this law

would not obstruct associations "inspired by Islamic values."

But he also condemned groups that might present themselves as the sole defenders of Islam, which he called "the heritage of all Algerians," and designated by the constitution as the state religion.

The law on prices replaces a cumbersome four-tier price system with a two-tier structure that maintains state controls on essential or strategic commodities and allows others to be determined by the market.

The result will be to expand the role of the market in an economy long dominated by the public sector but in which state industries have been granted increasing autonomy.

In a series of referendums since November, Algeria's 13 million voters repeatedly have backed sweeping political reforms proposed by Benjedid, elected to a third five-year term in December.

Algerian newspapers said 40 groups intended to form parties to challenge the FLN's political dominance of the country since it won independence from France in 1962.

Among the groups ready to take advantage of the law are the Social Democratic Party, with a rapidly growing membership, the Democratic Union, and the Front

for Socialist Forces.

The Islamic Salvation Front and the Algerian Democratic Movement, led by Algeria's first president, Ahmad Ben Bella, expelled together to form a platform for the first electoral test in municipal elections at the end of the year.

According to the text of the bill, groups wanting to form political parties can now apply to the Interior Ministry, which has two months to give a reply.

The new law forbids members of the military, policemen, magistrates or members of the constitutional council from belonging to political movements.

The state will contribute to each political party in proportion to its membership in parliament. All foreign material support for the parties is forbidden by the new law.

As FLN representatives debated the bill, several hundred people, many of them women, demonstrated peacefully in front of the parliament, calling for respect for women's rights and equality before the law.

The bill also forbids any party to be based on regional, linguistic, racial or religious grounds. Some deputies felt that article was aimed at Islamic fundamentalists or members of the Berber minority.



Eight Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories by the Israeli authorities pictured in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

W. Bank priest protests curfew

BEIT SAHOUR, Occupied West Bank (R) — A Greek Orthodox priest protested Sunday at an Israeli army curfew that kept Palestinians of the mostly-Christian town from church and appealed to the United States to intercede.

"I, as one of the priests of Beit Sahour, protest the disrespectful manner in which the military government and soldiers treat the religious leaders of the community," Father Issa Musleh said in a letter to the U.S. consulate. "We appeal to the American consul to appeal on our behalf... so that the people of Beit Sahour can pray in church..."

A consulate spokesman in Jerusalem confirmed he had received the letter, delivered by Israeli peace activists, but had no immediate response.

Troops arrested about 10 prominent townsmen Saturday night, including religious leaders, professionals and intellectuals who have met Israeli peace activists throughout the 18-month-old Palestinian uprising.

There was no protest in Beit Sahour Sunday that might have prompted a curfew and the army said it was a pre-emptive move.

"The curfew is in order to prevent disturbances in the future. We were notified that there would be disturbances," a spokesman said.

Residents of the town of 10,000 protested earlier in the week against arrests by gathering in the main church and singing protest songs.

Israeli peace activist Hillel Bar-Din said: "We think people should be allowed to go to church, that freedom of worship should not be infringed, and that there should not be a curfew when the area is quiet."

The army spokesman said the Beit Sahour residents arrested were suspected of anti-Israeli violence.

Residents on the outskirts of the town told Reuters that troops made large-scale arrests throughout the district Saturday of suspected Palestinian activists. Among them was West Bank doctors' union head Victor Batarsa, detained in Bethlehem.

Rabin dismisses criticism

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has dismissed U.N. criticism of Israel's expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I'll take the Security Council seriously when they deal with the expulsion of 60,000 Turks from Bulgaria," Rabin said. "After that I will pay attention to what they say about the expulsion of eight leaders of the uprising in the territories."

The U.N. Security Council was due to meet Monday at the request of Arab states to deal with Israel's most recent expulsions — eight Palestinians accused of leading the 18-month-old revolt.

They were expelled to Lebanon Thursday.

Israel has expelled 55 Palestinians since the start of the uprising in December 1987, prompting international condemnation spearheaded by the United Nations.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a member of Rabin's Labour Party, criticised the hawkish defence minister for trying to speed up expulsions by changing legislation that holds up such action pending appeal.

"Where did the defence ministry find the genius who suggested deport first and hear the appeal afterwards?" Shahal asked in remarks to the Jerusalem Post newspaper.

Rabin also urged cabinet ministers to keep the army out of the political debate after Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was quoted as saying new West Bank commander Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai would fight the uprising better than outgoing Major-General Amram Mitzna.

"The army must be kept outside the political fight. The army is a national asset that must be given the broadest backing certainly by the ministers of the government," he said.

Arens' office denied the foreign minister criticised Mitzna and said in a statement:

"The comments of the foreign minister were distorted and taken out of context. Regarding the head of central command, he only expressed his hope that the new general will succeed in his mission of dealing with the uprising."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel bans Arab's play

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities said Sunday they had banned a play written by an Israeli Arab, calling it a racist production that would incite anti-Israeli protests. But playwright Riad Masarwy of Nazareth said his work "The Ninth Wave" was censored because "the government could not deal with the political situation that exists today." The play is about a groom who is killed by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank moment before his marriage, he said. As the bride dances around his dead body, relatives tell of Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people since 1948. Masarwy, 40, said he would continue with rehearsals for the play which was due to open in Nazareth Sept. 4. "I do not hurt the feelings of anyone. I bring facts from the past and from the present. Apparently the authorities cannot handle these facts," he told Reuters. He said the play had been co-produced with a Belgian theatre group and involved five Belgian actors as well as five Arab actors. It was to have been performed in French and Arabic.

Tehran faces water shortage

NICOSIA (AP) — Tehran is running out of drinking water and authorities are urging the Iranian capital's estimated 10 million inhabitants to economise or face rationing, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. "If the call by the water department is not heeded, it is feared that some part of the city will have to do without water for a few hours every day, as some did Saturday," it said. The agency said that "the increasing population of the city and the absence or scarcity of alternative water resources... is pushing the authorities to impose periodic austerity for everyone so there will be round-the-clock water for all." IRNA said Tehran's water problems began in the 1960s, when people from rural areas began moving into the capital. The urban drift intensified after the 1979 revolution and the decline in agriculture. The city, where an estimated one-fifth of Iran's 50 million population live, has a low water fall during winter and spring and relies mainly the Karaj, Jajrud and Lar rivers for its water resources, IRNA said. The agency disclosed that water consumption — for drinking and washing — in Tehran was currently between 240,000 and 300,000 cubic metres a year above the capacity of reservoirs.

Herzog says Mulroney to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — President Chaim Herzog returned to Israel Sunday after a ten day visit to Canada and said Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has accepted an invitation to visit Israel. During his 10 days visit, Herzog met with Canadian leaders and addressed both houses of parliament. He was the first senior Israeli figure to visit Ottawa since Canada lifted a ban on cabinet members and ambassadors meeting officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "I felt that there was an understanding of our position even if we did not see eye to eye on all issues," Herzog told reporters at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. He said he invited Mulroney to visit Israel and "the visit is now being planned." He gave no other details of the expected visit.

7 women trampled to death in S. Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Seven women were trampled to death at a wedding party when a power cut sparked a stampede, the Dammam-based Al Yom newspaper reported Monday. The paper quoted a Ministry of Health official as saying three women were in serious condition while 22 others were being treated for minor injuries and shock. It said those killed in the all-women weekend party in the southern town of Jazan were four Saudi Arabians, a Yemeni, an Indonesian and a Sri Lankan. The official was quoted as saying the women were trampled to death after rushing out of the party venue when the lights went out.

Somali president wants direct dialogue

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre said Sunday he wanted a direct dialogue with "dissidents and opposition" in the interests of Somali unity. Barre made his statement at the end of a session of the ruling party's central committee. He did not refer directly to the Somali National Movement, whose guerrillas are fighting in northern Somalia, or to the opposition groups now based outside Somalia. He said he was ready to enter into dialogue "at any time and at any place" for the sake of unity. However, such a dialogue should be reasonable and just, he added. Barre described the current conflict as fratricide and said it was contrary to Islamic teaching. Thousands of Somalis fled into the neighbouring areas of Ethiopia to escape fighting in northern Somalia last year. The Somali government has called on them to return and has launched plans for rebuilding parts of Hargeisa and other towns which were destroyed in the fighting.

PLO banks on EC and uprising

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf says the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), facing deadlock in its dialogue with Washington, is banking on European influence and the Palestinian uprising against Israel to maintain pressure for Middle East peace.

Salah Khalaf, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy in the mainstream Fatah movement, told Reuters in an interview that in formal talks with the PLO in Tunis, the United States had not significantly changed its position on the Middle East.

"We still think the dialogue is a positive step and we have not despaired of it... but there has been no progress in the American position," he said in the interview Sunday.

In the dialogue, U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, the sole

channel for contacts, has tried to sell the Israeli government's plan for elections and to encourage meetings between Israelis and Palestinians from within the occupied territories, he said.

Khalaf said the election plan fell far short of PLO expectations.

He said it ignored the organisation and said nothing about self-determination for the Palestinian people or Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

"We can't go into a tunnel when we don't know what's at the other end. Is it open or is it a dead end?" he said.

Asked what other options the PLO had, he said, "take for example the statement by the European Community (EC), it's excellent. It's good and it's positive, it contains fundamental changes..."

"The community can play a very important role by talking to the Americans, by talking to the Israelis, to convince them of the idea contained in their statement."

At a summit in Madrid last week, the EC adopted a position on the Middle East close to that of the PLO and said for the first time that the PLO should take part in an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The other option, he said, was to keep up the intifada. "The intifada is a very important element. It has a big effect on Israel every day."

He said the PLO had no objections to contacts between Israeli leaders and Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, provided these were not understood as negotiations.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said recently that Shamir was planning to meet Palestinians, including PLO sympathisers, to discuss his election plan.

Khalaf said no Palestinians had yet asked the PLO for clearance to take part in such meetings and he did not expect Shamir to invite them before a Likud party meeting on the elections plan Wednesday.

He said the PLO position was that any official delegation for talks with Israeli leaders should be from both inside and outside the territories. Arafat has named Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughud, two Palestinian Americans, as possible participants in such a team.

"It's not out of the question that a member of the leadership should also be in the delegation."



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PRAYER TIMES

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Terranova Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 685326	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

AMMAN	Min./max. temp.
Amman 33, Aqaba 40, Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.	19 / 34 25 / 40 19 / 39 24 / 39

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Fayez Jallouqa	634307
Dr. Hussein Haddad	731267
Dr. Ahmad Othman	786384
Dr. Issa Abu Halid	637123
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	626672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoubi pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Fady Jallouqa	634307
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Delegates to children's congress start leaving

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegations from 15 Arab countries who took part in the ninth children's congress began leaving here for home following a week-long visit as well as cultural and recreational programmes.

Among those leaving Monday were children's groups from Iraq, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Altogether, 60 boys and girls took part in the activities which included visits to tourist and archaeological sites, cultural events, visits to Jordanian families, recreational programmes, visits to the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea and a meeting with Her Majesty Queen Noor who sponsors the annual event through the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHFF).

Interviewed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, shortly before departure the children and their supervisor voiced deep

appreciation for the hospitality accorded to them during their stay in Jordan, and said that the visit immensely increased their knowledge about Arab culture.

Upon conclusion of the event Sunday, the children held a seminar attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal, at the end of which they issued a set of recommendations calling for more care and attention to children at schools and homes, underlining the importance of books and publications as the major source of knowledge for children and calling for a greater measure of interaction among the cultures of the Arab World.

The children called on Arab intellectuals and script-writers to produce more books for the benefit of children and urged more cultural programmes to be organised for children in all Arab countries.



Nsour opens camp at Dibbin park

Education Minister Abdullah Nsour Monday opened a camp at Dibbin National Park, near Jerash, and addressed the 185 participants, urging them to carry out useful work and voluntary service for their community. The participants are all members of scout organisations from

different parts of the Kingdom who will spend a week in the camp, training in civil defence work, automotive, electricity and other trades as well as doing scout duties. The minister underlined the scout movement's importance in developing the youth of Jordan (Petra)

PSD destroys large drug haul

AMMAN (J.T.) — A large haul of drugs seized from smugglers in Jordan over the past few months was burnt Monday at the kilns of the Jordan Cement Factories Company under the supervision of the Public Security Department (PSD).

Major General Nasoub Muhieddin, PSD assistant director, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the haul was made up of 1,348 kilograms of hashish, nine kilograms of heroin, 26 kilograms of opium, 51,658 capsules and 207 cannabis saplings.

He said that the drugs were seized in a total of 99 drug trafficking cases and had a street

value of JD 2 million. Maj-Gen. Muhieddin said that the drug trafficking cases in the first half of 1989 reached an unprecedented level but did not disclose any figures.

Muhieddin said that most of the drugs were destined to other Arab countries which normally consume them and that Jordan has a relatively low number of drug addicts.

The Kingdom's central geographical location between drug producing and drug consuming countries makes it prone to drug smuggling operations, Muhieddin noted.

But he added that the PSD has been very active foiling most of the smugglers' attempts at traf-

ficking and peddling the illicit products.

Last month the PSD announced that a haul of hashish with a street value estimated at JD 300,000 was seized by the police and customs authorities as it was being smuggled into Jordan from Syria.

The PSD said that 232 kilograms of hashish were found hidden inside a lorry that arrived at the border town of Ramtha from Syria in March this year.

The PSD announced that it had broken the biggest drug smuggling operation in Jordan's history, seizing two and a half tonnes of hashish, 300,000 capsules and pills altogether worth JD 2 million.

Aqaba Labour Department offers 112 jobs to unemployed Jordanians

AQABA (Petra) — Aqaba Labour Department last month offered 112 jobs to unemployed Jordanians living in the Aqaba area, according to department Director Jamal Abu Tayeh. He said that the jobs were in dif-

ferent industrial and trade fields. Abu Tayeh said that nearly 95 per cent of the workers in industrial concerns in Aqaba are Jordanians, who also form 85 per cent of the total number of employees in the transport sector.

Abu Tayeh said the Vocational Training Corporation is helping in the process of finding jobs to the unemployed by offering them training courses as drivers so that they can replace non-Jordanians in the transport sector.

Delegates for 5th expatriate conference begin arriving

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates who will take part in the Fifth Jordanian Expatriates Conference began converging on Amman, and according to sources at the Ministry of Labour, which is organising the meeting, some 1,000 delegates will attend the four-day meeting.

Mr. Azmi Al Muhaseb, director of the ministry's Expatriates Affairs Department said that the conference to be held under Royal patronage will be attended

by representatives of various types of expatriates groups from different countries.

This year's participants, Muhaseb noted, is nearly double the number of last year.

One of the major topics for discussion is the establishment of a private university in Jordan to serve the expatriates and their children, according to Ministry of Labour officials.

They were quoted by Sawt Al Shaab daily Monday as saying

that the private university, to be known as the University of Applied Sciences, will open its doors in the coming year.

The projected university's capital is JD 10 million of which JD 6 million has already been paid up, the report said.

It said that the process of registering the university with the Ministry of Industry and Trade as a share-holding company has already started.

Red Crescent society to organise international youth camp in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) will organise its first international youth camp in Jordan Thursday and according to an official statement Monday participants from 12 Arab and foreign countries are expected to take part in the camp's activities.

The statement said that the 75 participants aged between 15 and 17 years will hold seminars, panel discussions, and hear lectures on the work and operations of the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies around the world, as

well as humanitarian assistance and the Geneva agreements on providing voluntary service.

The participants will also watch documentary films on humanitarian services and will make field trips to archaeological and tourist areas in the country, the statement added.

The statement said that the week-long activities are designed to corroborate international understanding and promote the cause of peace as well as increase youth contribution to voluntary and humanitarian services around

the world.

The participants, the statement noted, will have the chance to exchange views and hold open discussions on various activities carried out by the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies.

Taking part in the camp to be opened by Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour at Allan, north west of Amman — are delegates from Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey, Bulgaria, West Germany and Sweden in addition to Jordan.

Sanaa seeks to acquire Jordanian expertise in housing — N. Yemeni aide

AMMAN (J.T.) — North Yemen hopes to acquire Jordanian expertise in housing operations and is interested in promoting bilateral cooperation in construction, North Yemeni Ministry of Municipalities and Housing Under Secretary Mohammad Al Ashwal said in a statement here Monday.

Speaking at a meeting with Yousef Hiyasat, director of the Housing Corporation, Ashwal said that North Yemen will open all channels for bilateral cooperation with Jordan in the construction of housing units and similar projects.

Hiyasat briefed Ashwal on the corporation's plans to build units at a minimum cost using locally produced materials for the benefit of low income groups.

He said that Jordan gives due attention to housing schemes providing essential services to all its housing estates.

Under a national housing strategy, which was recently approved by the government here, the housing corporation plans to set up units around the Amman, Hiyasat noted.

He reviewed with Ashwal development of the corporation's programmes over the years, noting that so far the corporation carried out 74 housing projects of 15,000 units estimated at JD 159 million.

Hiyasat also briefed the North Yemeni official on progress in the production of the Jordan building

code which provides national specifications for all building operations in the country.

North Yemen and Jordan are linked through the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which also groups Iraq and Egypt, and through a joint Jordanian-North Yemeni Higher Committee which meets alternatively in Sanaa and Amman.

The last meeting held in Janu-

ary 1989 under the co-chairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries, resulted in a wide ranging agreement on bilateral cooperation.

Among other things, the two sides decided to exchange legislation on construction work and engineering publications dealing with public works and transport, and qualifications of engineers as well as consultancy firms.

North Yemen agreed to give Jordanian contractors favourable treatment in tenders for projects in North Yemen and to allow Jordanian engineers and contractors associations to open offices in Sanaa to study potential schemes.

N. Yemeni team visits teachers training college

AMMAN (Petra) — An educational team from North Yemen Monday visited the advanced teachers training college in Amman, and was briefed on its development and courses.

The college was created by the Ministry of Higher Education to upgrade the qualifications and improve the skills of Jordanian teachers.

Another North Yemeni team, representing the Ministry of Municipalities and Housing had a meeting with the deputy mayor of Amman Sultan Khleifat. Cooperation in municipal and construction services between Sanaa and Amman was discussed at the meeting. Khleifat briefed the guests on the Greater Amman Municipality's expansion projects and various services.

RSS, bank sign accord to study economic situation in Madaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Cities and Villages Development Bank's Regional Development Fund (RDF) have signed an agreement according to which the RSS will conduct a seven-month study of the economic and social situation in Madaba district while the RDF will finance the study.

This study is designed to look into the available capabilities in the field of investment and particularly investment in small and medium-size productive projects, acting director of the RSS Economic Research Centre, Dr. Ahmad Qasem, said.

This study will involve office and field works. Data available at

concerned ministries and institutions will be collected, covering economic, social, health, educational, and other services in the district.

Furthermore, the necessary statistics regarding the number of schools, teachers, health centres and other facilities will also be collected.

Seminar discusses protection of Jerash archaeological sites

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the archaeology of the Ancient Greco-Roman City of Jerash and means of protecting its remains was held at the University of Jordan Monday with the participation of a group of specialists in antiquities from the university, the Department of Antiquities and the private sector.

Several topics related to the ancient city's history and geography, the nature and design of its buildings and the city's historical

importance were discussed along with a number of working papers dealing with restoration work in the city.

Dr. Adnan Al Bakhit, dean of the university's Scientific Research Department, referred to Jerash as serving as one of the focal points for the Arab and foreign countries over the past 10 years in view of its annual cultural and artistic events.

Mr. Akram Masarweh, director general of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Art, said that the

seminar dwell on the importance of Jerash as a source of culture and one that abounds with interesting architectural designs and specialists and scholars alike.

The seminar came only two days before the opening of the Jerash Festival in the ancient city where troupes from 25 countries in addition to Jordan will take part.

The opening date, Wednesday, July 5, is expected to be marked with a special ceremony to be held under royal patronage.



Seminar on the archaeology of the Ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash is held Monday at the University of Jordan.

New software product unveiled in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American computer company Management Science of America (MSA) Monday launched the Brightview product range, a new software technology aimed at making main frame computers "more friendly."

"Brightview is the logical development of what's been going on in the (computer) market," said Mike Duff, the director of local partner programme of MSA.

Duff was in Jordan for a four-day conference Monday that brought together the MSA partners from Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to discuss the applicability of Brightview in the Middle East. MSA, which is based in Atlanta, Georgia, operates in 61 countries worldwide.

According to Duff, this new development in software combines the simplicity of using a personal computer and the sophis-

ticatedness of a complex main terminal computer.

The English version of Brightview was launched in April this year after six months and six million dollars in research. In January of this year, MSA started research with a dual language computer company on "Arabising" Brightview, and according to Duff the result of such research should crystallise "in the not so

distant future."

"Information technology is very much a competitive weapon today. It's a cost cutting approach that enables management to define strategies, to measure their success, to implement their strategies, to set targets in terms of projects and to monitor them," said Duff, adding that many systems are not capable of fulfilling such functions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by three Arab artists representing Bahrain, Syria and Jordan at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Songs of the Earth" by Mohammad Nasrallah at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of children's books held within the framework of the Ninth Arab Children's Congress at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Constructed Narratives" at the British Council.
- ★ An exhibition of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.

FILM

- ★ A German film entitled "The Doctor of Stalingrad" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

UNFPA expert visits Yarmouk

IRBID (J.T.) — Dr. Majid Khan, an expert working for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) called at Yarmouk University Monday and had a meeting with its president, Dr. Mohammad Hamdan who

briefed him on the University's projects and development. Khan briefed Hamdan on the fund's activities and learnt from university deans about a people's communication project which is being implemented in coopera-

tion with the fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The project entails visits by university students to various rural areas in the Irbidi Governorate.

في الأمل

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Weekly Political Pulse

Call Shamir's bluff

By Waleed Sadi

WHILE the extremists in the Likud camp are crying wolf at the thought of allowing the Palestinians to elect their own representatives and see in it a potentially fatal blow to their determination to hold on to Arab lands, Shamir is counting on Arab Palestinian rejection of the election scheme to confirm his instinct that the final stage for Palestinian determination of their future will never materialise. At the same time, what better public relations gimmick for Israel to fool the international community than to raise high the placard calling for free and democratic elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip? After all, who can quarrel with an offer to give the Palestinians an opportunity to freely choose their representatives? That explains in part why the international community has, by and large, voiced support for the idea — provided the elections in question meet certain fundamental conditions, including holding them in a truly free and democratic manner and away from the duress of Israeli occupation. Other caveats, added by the Arab side, include assurances that any such elections can be translated into the establishment of an indepen-

dent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Yet, Shamir is gambling that his seemingly "attractive plan" will never get to the stage where it could pose a threat to Israel's established policy to keep physical control over Arab territories. One can almost see Shamir winking at Sharon and his clique, reassuring them that there is little to worry about, that the master plan is always in safe hands. It appears that such implicit promises are not sufficient for Sharon and like-minded Israelis, who insist on iron clad guarantees that the whole exercise will come to naught.

Under these circumstances, would it not be more prudent of the Palestinian side to call Shamir's bluff and accept the challenge of negotiating the terms and conditions of the proposed election rather than to reject them outright? This may not be a popular choice, but it certainly would be a smart move.

If the Palestinian side would accept the idea of elections in principle and offer to negotiate the circumstances that would make such elections truly free and democratic, it would enjoy wide

international support and understanding. By insisting that Israel heed the results of the elections, including the projected decision to establish a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian side stands to gain support and appreciation as well. For no true backer of free and democratic elections in the occupied Arab territories would seek to deny the voting Palestinians the outcome of the expression of their right to self-determination in its widest and fullest dimensions.

To be sure, and as of now, Israel is in no mood to allow the process of elections to come to fruition. Shamir is betting on the Palestinian side to save him from the consequences of his gambit. One can be sure that the Likud people in the Israeli government have many surprises up their sleeves designed to sabotage the voting process in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — should worse come to worse and the Palestinians take up the Shamir challenge at face value and accept the vote proposal. But, since the whole exercise appears to be a publicity stunt, why not win it for the side of the Arabs, by taking Shamir to task and playing his game?

Bush aims to encourage new trends in Poland, Hungary

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President George Bush aims to encourage positive trends in Eastern Europe and score another foreign policy success when he visits the region this month.

Poland and Hungary, members of the Warsaw Pact military alliance, are undertaking political and economic reforms, and the president wants to lend some support when he visits the countries July 9-13.

Like most American conservatives, Bush sees a free market economy and political freedoms developing in tandem. There are signs this is occurring on a limited scale in both Communist countries.

Bush will take with him a package of incentives, carefully tied to

good management in Warsaw and Budapest. Then at a July 14-16 summit meeting in Paris with the leaders of six other industrial democracies, Bush will urge others to provide backing.

The risk is that Bush might upset the Soviets. But Mikhail Gorbachev has acknowledged his own economy needs an overhaul, and he's offering the Soviet people a heady mixture of glasnost, or openness, and perestroika, or restructuring.

Bush advised the Soviet leader at a recent news conference not to "upbraid" (irritate) about his trip to Eastern Europe. Treading carefully, the president said he would not exhort the Poles or the Hungarians into actions that could provoke repression.

Considering Gorbachev's own programme at home, and the

enormous cost to the Soviets of subsidising East European economies, the president is likely to succeed in his efforts to stimulate democracy.

Soviet tanks rolled into Hungary in 1956 and into Czechoslovakia in 1968 to suppress reform movements. Those movements did not have Moscow's support.

This time around, Hungary and Poland have not stepped over the line by threatening to evolve out of the Soviet orbit.

Bush described his immediate objectives this way: "I want to see a much more open Europe. And I think that the importance of the visit is along that line. It's not going to be that we're going to solve the problem of the Hungarian economy or the Polish economy."

The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in

Washington, is optimistic about prospects for economic changes in Eastern Europe and wants the White House to promote the trend.

Burton Yale Pines, the director of research, said Bush's trip could produce the first U.S. policy for Eastern Europe since World War II.

"The United States has never had a policy toward Eastern Europe," Pines said. "We've had ad hoc responses."

Earlier trips to the region by presidents Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter were designed "to tweak" Moscow, Pines asserted. Now the circumstances are different.

Moscow is rethinking its role in the region, and Bush will visit at a time of enormous political, economic and cultural change. Gor-

bachev has offered to withdraw some troops and tanks from the East. The NATO-Warsaw Pact negotiations in Vienna could produce a wholesale reduction in forces.

"If Soviet troops really pull out you are giving a green light to reform," Pines said.

Kim R. Holmes, director of foreign policy research at the Heritage Foundation, stressed the economic burden the East Europeans are to Moscow's own sagging economy.

"Eastern Europe is an economic basket case, plagued with low productivity, low motivation, an increasingly obsolete industrial base, an ecological crisis and a debt to the West of over \$1 billion," he said.

According to Holmes, the Soviets spend at least \$21 billion a year for trade subsidies and credits, and economic and military aid — beyond what it costs Moscow to maintain its half-million

troops in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

"Gorbachev may be willing to consider a partial and gradual disengagement from Eastern Europe in order to preserve the power of the Communist Party at home and to concentrate on resolving his own economic crisis," Holmes said.

What this adds up to for Bush is a unique opportunity for back-to-back successes in Europe.

In May, at the NATO summit meeting in Brussels, Bush unveiled a proposal for reductions of troops, tanks, artillery and other armament in Europe, earning praise for his response to Gorbachev's own bold initiatives.

Apart from the public relations dividend, Bush's move on the table in Vienna for the two alliances to work toward an accord that would require far greater arms reductions by Moscow than by Washington.

Hiking for trouble

ISRAELI hikers, with or without military escort, are roaming the West Bank and Gaza Strip these days to provoke the Palestinians and escalate the already over-charged tension existing in the area. To choose these trying times, when the Palestinians are waging their intifada and the international community is busy searching for a mutually acceptable formula to end the Palestinian conflict is utterly irresponsible. How can Israeli leaders speak of free and democratic elections in these very territories, ostensibly to allow the people there to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, when they orchestrate such provocative hikes right in the heart of the occupied Arab territories? How else can the Palestinians interpret such hostile actions of the Israeli government, as well as from the militant and extremist Israelis, except as a direct effort to breach all sensible attempts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and abort even the election idea proposed by Prime Minister Shamir himself? If the ultra-right Israelis wish to stake a claim to all of Palestine and preempt even the results of the election scheme, why would the Israeli government, the champion of this election idea, act as an accomplice to these hostile forces within Israel by facilitating the execution of their antagonistic hikes across the West Bank? This state of affairs leads us to the inevitable conclusion that the Israeli establishment has never been sincere about its election play and that by allowing extremists to zigzag the occupied Arab territories with complete knowledge of their views and dreams, it has shown its true colour for all to see.

Surely Israel knows that such challenges as posed by the Israeli hikers will make the Palestinians all the more determined to continue their uprising until Israeli extremism is uprooted from its source. If Israel's bullets and all these shades of oppression have failed to thwart the Palestinian will to wage their relentless struggle to regain their political rights, a few hundred Israeli hikers will not either. On the contrary, the hikers will only succeed in exacerbating further the tension unhappily existing between the Palestinians and the Israelis and undermine the opportunities for peace between them.



Adnan — Sawi Al Saab

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai Arabic daily on Monday commended the Central Bank of Jordan for its recent measures designed to stabilise the national currency and replenish the country's foreign exchange reserves. But it said that what Jordan needs more at the moment is self-confidence and determination to foil what it called the black hands that try to cause harm to the Kingdom and its stability. It said that those elements working in the dark and trying to harm the national economy are very few, and there was need for national unity and an all out determination to abort such evil schemes. The paper said that the economic crisis facing Jordan at the moment has come about gradually; and it is only natural to believe that through gradual but firm steps can we overcome the negative effects and tidy the country over its present difficulties. It is natural for Jordan under the present circumstances and given the current economic and political developments in the Middle East region to be facing a hard time, the paper noted. But, it said, that five given time, patience, perseverance and hard work, the Jordanian people can deal successfully with the situation.

A columnist in Al Rai Arabic daily dwells in his Monday column on Israel's recent deportation of a group of eight Palestinians charged with committing resistance activity against the occupation forces. Ibrahim Sakikha says that the Israeli action was condemned by the Arabs and the whole international community, and the question is being debated at the United Nations Security Council later Monday. One cannot predict the outcome of the coming debate and can only wonder about Washington's position this time in the light of continued U.S. support for the Jewish State, the writer notes. He says whether the council condemns or fails to condemn the atrocities of the Israeli government there is no chance at all that the Israeli government there is no chance at all for the eight Palestinians to return to their homeland; and whether the council supports the Palestinian people's struggle or not, there is no hope for stopping the Israeli inhuman actions, the demolition of homes and the killing of the innocent women and children. Sakikha refers to previous council resolutions which did nothing to put an end to the Israeli arbitrary actions and notes that with the power of veto, Washington is bound to continue its encouragement of the Jewish state to pursue its repressive actions.

Sawi Al Saab daily focused its attention Monday on the situation in Lebanon where the shelling of residential areas has been stepped up despite ongoing mediation efforts to end the ordeal of the Lebanese people. The paper referred to a visit Monday to Damascus by the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria in a fresh bid to find a formula for an end to the bloodshed. It said that on the eve of the visit, Iraq announced loud and clear that it supports the Arab League's mediation efforts and will provide all possibilities facilities to make the three ministers' mission a success. But the paper added that Iraq's contribution is not enough, and noted that cooperation on the part of Syria and the other parties in Lebanon itself is urgently required. The paper said that the civil war in Lebanon that has been simmering for the past 15 years cannot be ended overnight; and in addition to the Arab League's endeavours, individual Arab countries' cooperation and influence is needed to attain fruitful results.

U.S. Senate's foreign relations panel stalemated

By Lawrence L. Knutson
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate committee on foreign relations, once considered a summit of U.S. legislative prestige and power, appeared mired in conflict among its members.

In recent weeks, the committee has floundered through political disputes over several controversial ambassadorial appointments by U.S. President George Bush which required the panel's approval.

Donald Gregg, the nominee to be ambassador to South Korea, was the target of a Democratic probe into allegations that he used a former position as national security adviser to Vice President Bush to help the illegal resupply of the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Failure to make progress on the bill put into question the fate of the two-year, \$23 billion spending authorization, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on June 29. Both the Senate and the House must adopt identical versions of the same bill for it to become law.

The House bill was whipped into shape by Dante Fascell, the grizzled chairman of the foreign affairs committee. Displaying the bite, bark and manner of a drill sergeant, the congressman from Florida pushed the measure through.

However, Fascell's counterpart in the Senate, chairman Claiborne Pell, has been virtually the only committee member to attend meetings on the aid bill.

There is, he declared wryly, "a profound lack of interest in this bill."

Then there were holdups over several controversial ambassadorial appointments by U.S. President George Bush which required the panel's approval.

Donald Gregg, the nominee to be ambassador to South Korea, was the target of a Democratic probe into allegations that he used a former position as national security adviser to Vice President Bush to help the illegal resupply of the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

The committee then tried to return to the larger and more potentially controversial foreign aid bill, again.

But once again, no quorum could be mustered.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Gregg denied the charge and the opposition Republican Party members on the committee organised a boycott of the panel's meetings believing that Democrats were trying to fan the fading members of the Iran-contra affair and sink the Gregg nomination.

Sen. Mitch McConnell called off the boycott after Sen. Alan Cranston, a Democrat, agreed to let the Gregg nomination go to a vote on June 20.

A tug of war has also broken out over two competing spending priorities: The construction in Israel of two expensive broadcasting transmitters for the Voice

of America and the payment of millions of dollars of past-due payments to the United Nations, a course favoured by Pell.

The panel decided that the transmitters should be funded but that the money should not be taken out of the U.N. account as Sen. Jesse Helms demanded. No one said where the money would come from in a foreign affairs account that is already nearly \$800 million over budget ceilings.

The committee then tried to return to the larger and more potentially controversial foreign aid bill, again.

But once again, no quorum could be mustered.

Helms also has engaged in a long-running battle with the State Department, drawing criticism for allegedly delaying diplomatic nominations in order to gain leverage in battles over foreign policy.

The committee's influence has been slipping since Fulbright's chairmanship in the early 1970s with the exception of a brief renaissance when Sen. Richard Lugar headed the panel for two years beginning in 1985.

During the Lugar years, foreign aid legislation marched with unaccustomed ease through the Congress, a consensus was won on controversial sanctions against white-ruled South Africa, and Lugar helped change U.S. policy toward dictatorial rule in the Philippines.

But that was a brighter-than-usual period in the committee's long decline.

lengthy consideration of it, senior Democrats made sure one of all of them were present to rebut his assertions and attempt to overcome his tactics.

Helms also has engaged in a long-running battle with the State Department, drawing criticism for allegedly delaying diplomatic nominations in order to gain leverage in battles over foreign policy.

The committee, many of its critics say, has seen brighter days. The names of such postwar chairman as Arthur Vandenberg, J. William Fulbright and Frank Church have been central to the shaping of American foreign policy.

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But that was a brighter-than-usual period in the committee's long decline.

LETTERS Undisciplined desires

To the Editor:

IF cigarette smoking produces a degeneration of the cells of the brain, the taking of narcotics and intoxicants wrecks the nervous system and causes cancer, tuberculosis, heart ailments, and venereal diseases to those lame ducks who practice such unnatural stimulants. Tolstoy once said: "Why do men stupefy themselves with tobacco?"

A heavy smoker, a light smoker, and a nonsmoker were provided with brand new cars of the same trademark, the same model, and the same horsepower. The three were ordered to drive their cars at a maximum speed of 40 kilometre per hour from a common starting point. After they had driven their cars for a distance of one kilometre, barricades were thrown in their route at a distance of three yards. The heavy smoker, unable to control his car, hit the barricade with a terrific blow that his car was a total loss, a heap of metal; the light smoker hit the barricade with less ferocity, and his car was slightly damaged; the nonsmoker applied his brakes, stopped his car in due course, and escaped unharmed.

This example illustrates the menacing effect of smoking on brain cells, on eyesight, and on nerve cells, called neurones. For if a person smokes a pack a day,

that person inhales 400 milligrams of nicotine a week. That much in a single dose would kill that person instantly.

Our legislative assembly ought to legislate against the driving of any type of vehicle on our roads by heavy smokers and drug addicts. As regards light smokers, they should be prohibited from driving school buses.

The chain-smoker suffers from chronic tired feeling or fatigue. Therefore, it is not enough to prohibit smoking in public places and on public conveyances. Smokers should not be allowed to endanger the lives of innocent citizens by driving their vehicles negligently or recklessly. Every driver should be subjected to a rigorous and comprehensive medical examination before a driving licence is issued to him if we are to reduce the increasing number of accidents and traffic offences.

As parents and teachers, God will hold us responsible if we fail to discipline the natural and unnatural desires of our children. If we are to live abundantly, and if we are aiming at building a healthy, energetic, and vigorous society, then the first step to take is to discipline our bodily desires and those of our children.

George N. Saig
Amman

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Producers battle for rain forest hero tale

By Nina J. Easton

OLLYWOOD — In a village in the South American rain forest, where trees tower over shabby houses and shabby fronts to form a leafy copy, a group of Brazilian organisers and environmentalists will meet soon to decide the fate of one of the most famous film projects in recent Hollywood history.

The Brazilians who gather in a village near the western edge of Brazil, hold the rights to the story of Chico Mendes, a peasant who captured the world's attention with his attempts to save Brazil's rain forests from being destroyed.

In the six months since Mendes was gunned down in his back yard allegedly by local ranching interests — his story has been used by such entertainment heavyweights as Robert Redford, Steven Spielberg, David Puttnam and Ted Turner.

Producers and directors have flocked to Rio Branco, a frontier town that requires a seven-hour trip with three stopovers from the city of Manaus, to lobby Mendes' story and his followers. They are flown in Portuguese and Spanish versions of their movies. They have offered to pay for worldwide TV commercials to promote preservation of the rain forest. And, one by one, they've dangled hundreds of thousands of dollars in front of Mendes' family and the foundation that bears his name.

We've all seen bidding wars

on scripts," said leading artists agent Robert L. Stein. "But in 21 years in the business I can't recall the kind of innuendo that has taken place on this one. The players are international players. It's competition on a global level."

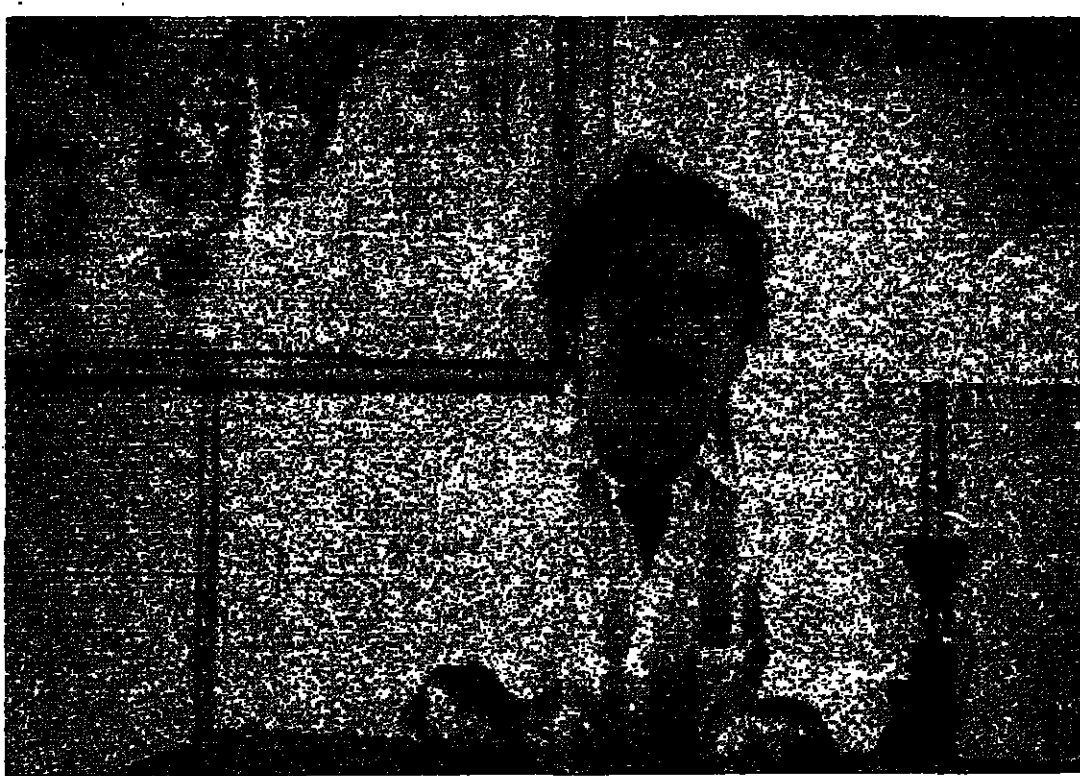
Two of Stein's clients are on Puttnam's team: Chris Menges, a former cinematographer (The Killing Fields) who made his directing debut last year with the anti-apartheid film A World Apart, and the respected documentary maker Adrian Cowell, who was doing a film on Mendes when he was murdered. Warner Bros., under its production agreement with Puttnam's Enigma Productions Company, is backing this group.

Puttnam's principal competitors are: Robert Redford, who has drafted Brazilian actress Sonia Braga (whom he directed in The Milagro Beanfield War) to smooth the way with the local population. Redford has proposed doing two projects: a feature that would be financed by 20th Century Fox and directed by Steven Spielberg, and a second project through his own production company.

Cable TV mogul Ted Turner, who is already producing a documentary on Mendes' death or air on his cable superstation TBS in October. Turner is now seeking rights for a made-for-TV movie.

The British film distributor Goldcrest Co., which has promised that Costa-Gavras (Missing, Betrayed) would direct its film.

— Jon Peters and Peter Guber,



Chico Mendes

who have produced such films as Batman, the box-office hit Rain Man, and Gorillas in the Mist about anthropologist Dian Fossey.

J.N. Filmes, a Brazilian company whose principal partner is the son of the late Nelson Rodrigues, one of the country's most celebrated playwrights. J.N. Filmes has made four feature films since 1982.

The race for the rights to

Mendes' story appeared to end, if only momentarily, June 7 when J.N. Filmes hosted a press conference in Rio de Janeiro to announce that it had acquired the rights to Mendes' story from his young widow, Ilzamar. But the announcement merely raised the ante in the competition.

"Ilzamar Mendes had signed this agreement with J.N. Filmes without authorisation," argued

Alan U. Schwartz, a Los Angeles attorney retained by the Chico Mendes Foundation in April to broker the influx of movie proposals. Schwartz's view is shared by other leaders of the foundation, which is administering the rights to Mendes' story and holds the key to cooperation from friends, family and followers.

The film makers pursuing Mendes' story appear to have stumbled onto a power struggle

within the political movement that Mendes left when he died.

"Quite frankly, it's not simply a matter of these deals," Schwartz said. "It's also a matter of where the authority of the movement should lie."

Mendes' widow is president of the foundation's board, but she sits on the board with representatives of six different union, environmental and Indian organisations, each of which has a voice in the direction of the movement.

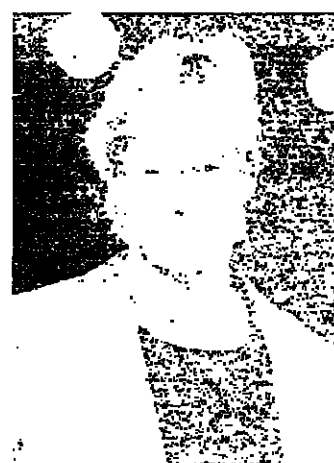
Ilzamar's agreement with J.N. Filmes surprised many of those representatives.

In a phone interview Jofre Rodrigues, the main partner in J.N. Filmes, insisted that his agreement with Mendes' widow was "binding." He added, "We made a perfect contract, so perfect that it is irreversible."

Rodrigues said that his company has already made payments to Ilzamar Mendes, as well as Mendes' first wife and daughter. And J.N. Filmes had signed up the successful Brazilian novelist Marcio Souza to write a screenplay for the movie.

The foundation's leaders were scheduled to meet in Xapuri this week to discuss whether to ratify the J.N. Filmes deal, to dismiss it in favour of another proposal, or, in the most likely scenario, to appoint a major Hollywood film maker as a partner with J.N.

It is not just Mendes' life that has generated so much interest in Hollywood, it is also his stature as a hero, and now martyr, of the environmental movement.



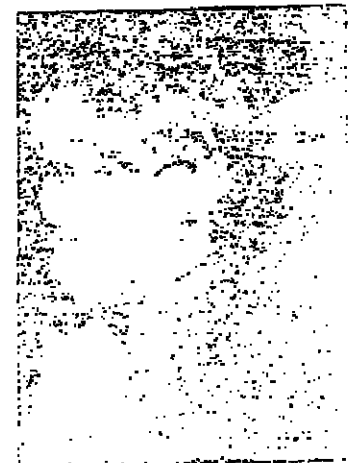
Robert Redford

"The environment has become a very hot issue here," Schwartz said. "You've got this very fashionable issue and (Mendes' story) is a direct focal point for it. In a very visual way, you can make a story about it."

Mendes started organising local peasants in the 1970s because he wanted to preserve a way of life for the thousands of rubber tappers who, like himself, earned a meager living by extracting latex from the forest's rubber trees.

As his work gained international recognition, environmentalists concerned about the destruction of the rain forest by settlers and ranchers supported his efforts. Environmental experts point to widespread burning of the rain forests as a key ingredient in the "Greenhouse" effect, or global warming that results from excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Thomas Belford, an executive from Turner Broadcasting who

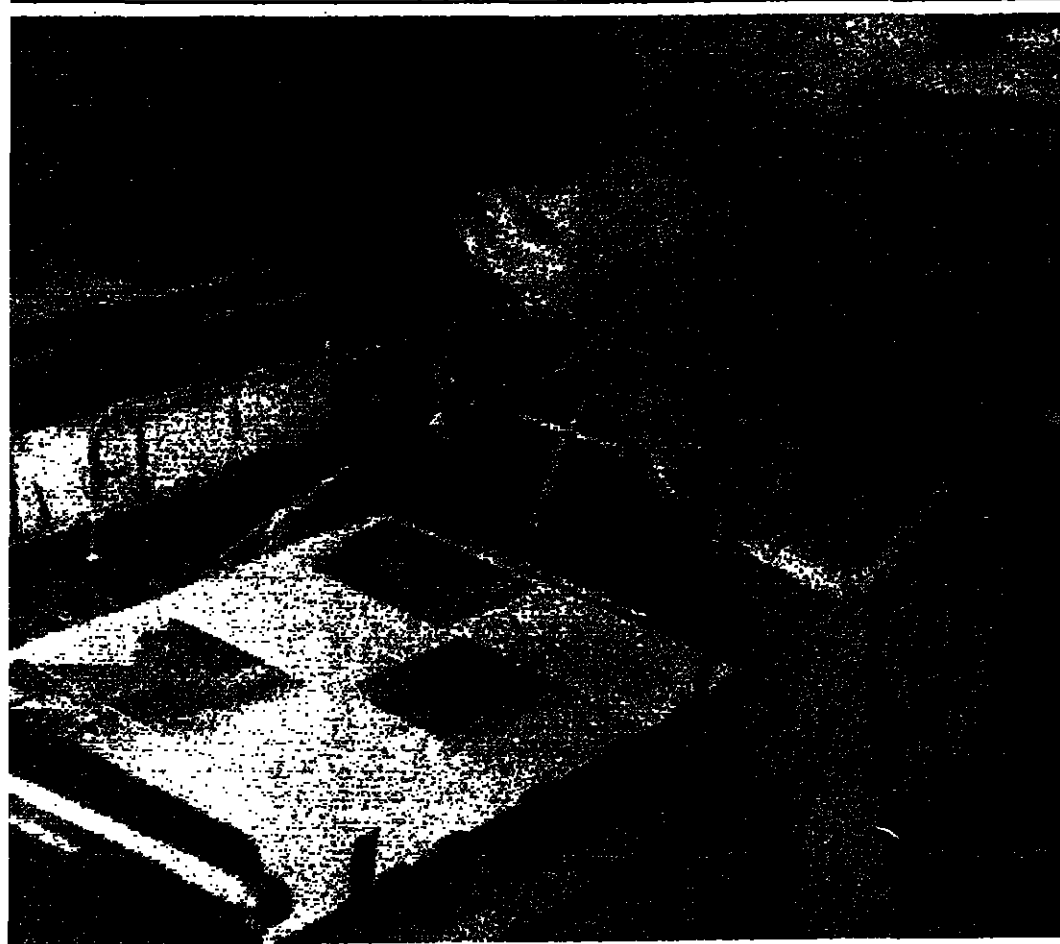


Steven Spielberg

visited Rio Branco to present the Turner proposal for a TV movie, said that the locals seemed impressed by the attention that Hollywood was lavishing upon them.

"A lot of fancy names were being thrown around," he said. "But it's not like they are reading the Hollywood reformer. While they were coming, it appeared that one of their greatest concerns was whether the message (of the film) would be useful to his goals and his life."

So besieged was the Mendes foundation by film makers that in April Schwartz was asked through American environmentalists to gather all the film proposals and make a recommendation. Schwartz, who in the past has worked for such human rights dissidents as Alexander Solzhenitsyn, agreed to make the case for a pro-bono basis. He has collected some offers, and made his trip to the Brazilian forest.



The Romanesque adventure of the monks

By Pascale Teillac

RIS — La Pierre-qui-Vire, in the heart of Romanesque Burgundy, is an abbey unlike any other. Nearly forty years ago, a community of Benedictine monks (distant descendants of monks who copied or illuminated manuscripts in the Middle Ages) started on an extraordinary venture called "Zodiaque". All lovers of Romanesque art and of the more and more numerous today know the "Zodiaque" publishing label which covers an anthology (unique in the world) of the splendors of Romanesque European architecture, sculpture and painting from the finest chapels in France or Italy to the most sumptuous cathedrals in France or England, and including frescoes in Catalonia. But few people know that it is still monks who, with modern techniques of photography, printing, composition, reproduction, and into the gain, the financial difficulties any publishing house.

The Zodiaque adventure began in 1950, when three young monks in the Abbey of La Pierre-qui-Vire (including the present director of Zodiaque, Dom Angelino Surchamp, himself an abstract painter and a student of Albert Ruyter) were asked to paint the scenes for the abbey's chapel and then for the refectory.

It was at the period when, after years of war and occupation, the Romanesque basilica of Zelaya, close to La Pierre-qui-Vire, was once more beginning to draw crowds of visitors. It was at the time when religious art and modern art were beginning to be acquainted and when great contemporary artists such as Matisse, Chagall and Cocteau were starting to decorate places of worship.

The three painter-monks then had the idea of putting on exhibitions of contemporary religious art in the sumptuous setting of Zelaya. The first reaction of the abbey was mitigated, and to such

an extent that Father Angelino Surchamp thought it useful to give visitors who were shocked by what they saw, the text of a brief "Note on Abstract Art" which he had written for the Abbey's magazine. Strangely enough, this text, which was printed by a friend, became Zodiaque's first pamphlet; the second being devoted to the "Agony of Religious Art". It was only in the third pamphlet, dealing with Antun Cathedral which had just found the Christ's head from his famous spandrel, that Romanesque art, which was going to establish the reputation of the Zodiaque editions, made its appearance.

Then other Romanesque pamphlets followed, on Burgundy, Tournus, Vézelay, etc., printed at the Abbey on equipment bought second-hand in 1950. The monks played a real financial balancing act, at that time, paying for the production of past issues with money from readers' subscriptions for future issues. It was the bookseller in Tournus who had the idea of putting all the pamphlets devoted to these Romanesque Burgundy buildings in a single illustrated and bound volume.

Thus "Bourgogne Romane" was born. It was the first volume of a collection which, today, numbers over 150 titles covering Romanesque or pre-Romanesque art in France (35 volumes), in Spain (10 volumes), Italy (8 volumes), Ireland, Scandinavia, Switzerland, England, Scotland, Portugal and even the Holy Land. Books on Belgium and Germany have been announced. Zodiaque has also published sumptuous books on Saint Benedict, patron of the Benedictines, on monastic Europe, Muslim Europe, the Lombards, Chartres Cathedral and the rock churches of Ethiopia, as well as more general works such as the Glossary of Technical Terms of Romanesque Art and the Lexicon of Symbols and Studies on Romanesque cloisters, crypts, Virgins and Christs.

The printing, which has been considerably modernised, is still carried out at La Pierre-qui-Vire, on offset, whereas the photocopying has been given to another monastery to do, La Trappe de la Melleray, in Normandy, which has one of the

biggest and best workshops in France. The photographic reproduction, using the photogravure process to which Zodiaque is very attached, is done at a printer's in the Vosges, one of the rare printing works in France which still uses this process which is far

more expensive than typography or offset but which gives magnificent results.

The success of these books keeps on growing. It is enough to make the monks of La Pierre-qui-Vire blush with pride — French features

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1,000 bird species threatened

A RECENT decision by the environment ministers of the 12 European Community countries to ban the import of raw and fashioned ivory is undoubtedly good news for the endangered African elephant, but the threat of extinction still looms large over thousands of other species of animals and birds, as rainforests diminish, pollution remains a major problem, and more land is cultivated in an effort to feed an increasingly populous world.

At least 1,000 of the earth's 9,000 species of bird are at risk of disappearing from the skies. For

about half of these the threat is immediate. For some, rescue may already be too late.

The International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) has compiled a list of endangered birds, but resources available for rescue and conservation are thinly spread. The ICBP regards birds as a sensitive indicator of the state of the global environment, enabling the organisation to target priority areas.

Threatened birds are the immediate beneficiaries of the ICBP, but its conservation work extends automatically to plants and other

animal species in a particular habitat.

The global Birdlife programme, which is a joint venture of the ICBP and the World Wildlife Fund, is working to save the birds of the world. The ICBP is trying to save further bird species by preserving the habitats of birds. The ICBP is also working to save the birds of the world by preserving the habitats of birds.

The spectre of extinction is a respecter of national boundaries or of national symbols. Lion feature

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Jordanian-Syrian committee opens talks in Damascus

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee grouping ministers and senior officials Monday embarked on a two-day meeting here to pave the way for a joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meeting scheduled to start Sunday.

Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Innab and his Syrian counterpart Antoin Jubran are heading the two teams for talks that cover a wide range of subjects including trade, industry, tourism, information and agriculture in addition to joint progress in the work of joint companies in land

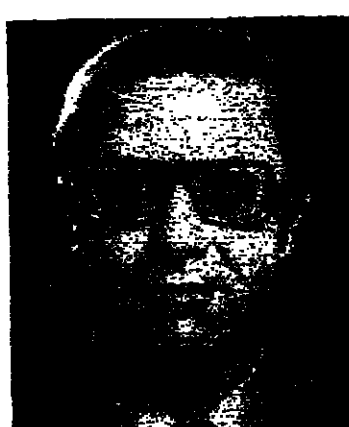
and maritime transport, energy and electricity. In its first meeting, the committee reviewed the implementation of resolutions taken by the Higher Committee during its meeting in Amman last February and expressed satisfaction with the progress of work in various fields.

Upon his arrival in Damascus Sunday evening, Innab said that the committee will prepare a comprehensive report on its work and proposed recommendations on future plans to the Higher Committee which is co-chaired by the Syrian and Jordanian prime ministers.

The Higher Committee, which met in Amman in February, decided on a 12 point programme to promote cooperation between the two countries ranging from electricity and trade to agriculture and pharmaceuticals. In their drive to promote bi-

lateral cooperation, the two sides last month signed an executive programme for the implementation of a 1987 agreement on tourism, and agreed to study the prospect of setting up a joint company for investments and hotel management.

Jordan and Syria jointly operate the white cement industry, a pesticide plant and a carpeting industry as well as a land transport company and a free zone area near the common border. The Jordanian side to the current committee talks in Damascus included Ministry of Industry and



Ziyad Innab

Trade Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf, Jordan's ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadid and Hassan Al Samman from the Central Bank of Jordan.

Gorbachev, Ligachev differ on agricultural strategy

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his agriculture chief Yegor Ligachev differed sharply at the weekend over how to solve growing food shortages — one of the most serious economic problems facing the Soviet Union.

While Gorbachev urged support for private land-leasing to boost output, Ligachev, long-regarded as a standard bearer for conservatism in the ruling Politburo, reiterated his commitment to the state and collective farm system.

"We have now formed a general policy — to give people the

chance to concentrate on private plots," Gorbachev told a Moscow meeting attended by senior Communist Party and government officials and farm experts. "Now we must put this into practice."

He said the full potential of the land could only be achieved through such policies, but accused some rural officials of showing reluctance to adopt new methods.

"They are frightened... by anything that makes them take responsibility," Gorbachev said.

Agricultural problems have reached a point of near crisis, with shortages of staple goods all over the country and widespread rationing.

Much of the problem lies in poor storage and distribution. Soviet experts say up to a third of all produce grown in state farms rots before it reaches the consumer.

The official news agency TASS, reporting both speeches in full, quoted Ligachev as saying he still believed in the collective farm system as the backbone of Soviet agriculture.

"It's no secret that the country is suffering from widespread shortages... some predict famine in a couple of years and say that the only way to avoid it is to do away with the state and collective farms, to hand out the land to the peasants, to denationalise the land and all means of production. But it turns out that the huge majority of peasants don't actually want to take the land and leave the collective and state farms," he said.

The party leadership has sought to pay down differences between Gorbachev and Ligachev, but their previous speeches on agriculture have revealed markedly divergent views.

Panel recommends drastic reflow of funds to developing countries



Helmut Schmidt

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Industrialised nations should drastically increase aid to Third World economies to help them overcome staggering debt burdens, said a report released Monday.

The report also said the United States can play a key role in solving the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt problem by reducing its massive fiscal and current account deficits.

The recommendations were made in a report prepared by former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt and a group of independent experts formed in 1988 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The panel said that in the last five years, developing countries have suffered from a reverse flow of funds, meaning that more capital has left those countries than has come in.

The net flow of investment from industrialised countries to developing countries dropped to \$10 billion in 1986 from \$20 billion in 1982, the report said.

To counter this trend, the report says "sizeable amounts of official development assistance (ODA) are urgently needed" to

start and support the self-sustaining economic growth essential to developing countries' efforts to free themselves from the debt crisis.

The Schmidt plan calls for doubling ODA loans provided by industrialised countries in the next five years. It also suggests study of a "mechanism of automaticity" that would gradually let each donor country's ODA loans increase as a percentage of gross national product.

The Schmidt panel specifically focuses on the plight of the poorest debtor nations, mostly located in sub-Saharan Africa. For these countries, it recommends the establishment by the industrialised nations of a \$1 billion endowment fund that would be administered by the African Development Bank.

The fund would be used to develop national professional, technological and managerial leadership pools.

The group said a recent novel

debt approach by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, which calls for voluntary debt reduction programmes by commercial bank lenders, can probably only succeed in close cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The Schmidt panel urged the two international lending institutions to set up a new facility funded by voluntary contributions from the industrialised countries.

commercial banks that don't want to reduce debt owed to them and don't want to provide fresh money to developing countries should be asked to accept repayment of part of the interest due to them in local currencies, the report says.

The panel stresses that U.S. budget and trade imbalances should be asked to accept repayment of part of the interest due to them in local currencies, the report says.

The panel stresses that U.S. budget and trade imbalances should be reduced because they keep interest rates high and continue to attract a large part of the world's capital formation, drawing funds from surplus countries like Japan and West Germany that could otherwise have been channeled to developing countries.

It calls on the United States to eliminate its federal budget deficit within four years.

The panel stressed the importance of free trade to the world economy and urged industrialised countries to substantially reduce all non-tariff barriers in the next five years. It called for the elimination of all tariff barriers in 10 years.

The group expressed hope that a normalisation of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union would lead to lower worldwide military expenditures, which could free up funds for "productive purposes."

Recession fears grow as industrial U.S. base weakens

WASHINGTON (R) — After six and a half years of growth, there are ominous signs that the U.S. economy may be slipping into recession.

The latest danger signal was hoisted Friday when Washington announced a 2.5 per cent fall in orders received from American factories.

"If this becomes a continuing long-term trend, we could move into a recession," said economist Jean Sundria of Evans Economics in Washington.

Pessimists fear that the economy, already constrained by tight consumer spending because of the cost of credit, may see basic manufacturing weaken to a point where recession could set in this year.

The stock market expressed its fear of a recession last week in a sell-off that sent the Dow Jones industrial average down sharply in three consecutive sessions — a sign the Federal Reserve (Fed) Board could ill afford to ignore, economists said.

They said the Fed, the U.S. central bank, may react to the weak economic news by easing interest rates slightly after its policy-making board, the Federal Open Market Committee, meets Wednesday and Thursday for the first time since mid-May.

The Fed has kept a tight reign on credit over the past year to fight inflation, which is now running at a yearly rate of 6.7 per cent.

Faced with weak growth, the Fed reversed its policy and eased interest rates slightly last month but it was not enough to prevent

the bearish turn in the stock market.

The selling mood gripped Wall Street after the government Wednesday reported a steep 1.2 per cent drop for May in its key gauge of future economic growth, the index of leading indicators. The weak May factory orders figure was another warning sign.

Some analysts said investors sold stock because they doubt that the Fed will lower interest rates enough to stimulate the economy and future earnings.

But economists believe it may slightly lower the federal funds rate, an overnight lending rate between banks, next week from the current 9.5 per cent to stimulate growth.

Lower interest rates would certainly be welcomed by the Bush administration, which does not want to lose the momentum of six and a half years of economic expansion.

The Fed has been navigating the economy between the twin dangers of inflation on one side and recession on the other. The aim is to achieve slow growth and modest inflation, what is known as a "soft landing."

"They'll be walking a fine line and try to keep the economy going, and now it would appear they are less concerned about inflation than they are about growth," said economist Kathryn Kober of the Washington forecasting firm Joel Popkin and Co.

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World Bank lending hits new record

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank, pledging a new commitment to the developing world, said Sunday that total loans approved for the year ended June 30 were a record \$21.4 billion compared with \$19.2 billion for the prior year.

In a briefing for reporters, officials said they anticipated that lending would increase an additional \$1.75 billion in the current fiscal year.

Noting that content of bank activity was more important than the amount of money that is lent, bank officials said that "growth alone does not necessarily reduce poverty."

The officials said the bank is in the midst of a major expansion of programmes that will invest directly in what it called human capital — in education, health, nutrition, and in efforts to

address issues of population planning and the enhancement of the role of women.

Bank officials said that total bank loans in the year just completed amounted to \$16.4 billion compared with \$14.7 billion in the prior fiscal year.

Total credits approved under the International Development Association (IDA), which makes money available on essentially an interest-free basis to the very poorest countries, were \$4.9 billion compared with \$4.5 billion.

Bank funds actually disbursed in the year just ended amounted to \$11.6 billion, identical with last year, while IDA disbursements

amounted to \$3.8 billion from \$3.4 billion.

Bank senior vice president for operations Moeen Qureshi, speaking with reporters, also said that bank loans to the highly indebted countries amounted to 48 per cent of total loans in the year just ended compared with 43 per cent in the prior year.

He estimated that a similar percentage commitment would be made this year.

He said the bank goes into the final decade of this century in strong shape.

"There is a new momentum to our operational work today," he said.

Manila wants more aid

TOKYO (AP) — An international conference aimed at solidifying aid to the Philippines opened Monday with a plea from the Manila government for continued help "to provide a better life for our people" and to strengthen democracy.

Philippine Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme told delegates from 18 other countries and seven international organisations that President Corason Aquino's administration is implementing wide economic and social reforms.

When the conference ends Wednesday, pledges of up to \$10 billion in aid over five years are to be made in what is being called a "Marshall Plan" to strengthen Mrs. Aquino's three-year-old

government. Jayme said the Philippine economy has been growing at six per cent annually for two years, and the government is improving its management of development projects and foreign debt, currently a heavy \$28 billion.

"It is our hope and expectation that the donor community will respond in good measure to the challenge of assisting in our efforts to provide a better life for our people in the years ahead, and allow the Philippines to strengthen its democratic way of life and preserve our freedoms," Jayme said.

A Japanese foreign ministry official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said Japan agreed with an assessment given

to the conference by the Asian Development Bank that the Philippines has made tremendous efforts but many problems remained.

Jayme said in his speech that 49 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line — an improvement from 59 per cent in 1985.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, July 3, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	French franc	85.4	86.3
U.S. dollar	344.8	370.8	Japanese yen (for 100)	302.6	306.5
Pound Sterling	877.3	886.3	Dutch guilder	257.3	259.0
Deutsche mark	220.0	223.0	Swedish crown	85.0	85.9
Swiss franc	338.6	342.0	Italian lire (for 100)	49.1	49.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	138.0	139.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.5665/75	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1955/65	Canadian dollar	
	1.9345/52	Deutsche mark	
	2.1800/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.6585/95	Swiss francs	
	40.49/54	Belgian francs	
	6.5620/70	French francs	
	1400/1401	Italian lire	
	142.50/60	Japanese yen	
	6.5825/75	Swedish crowns	
	7.0750/800	Norwegian crowns	
	7.5200/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	375.25/375.75	U.S. dollars	

Toyota considers building car engine plant in Britain

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest car maker, is considering building a car engine plant in Britain, where it already plans to construct a \$1.2 billion auto plant.

"The feasibility study is nearing its final stage," focusing on selecting a site for a new engine plant in Britain, said a Toyota official who spoke anonymously.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun, the nation's top economic newspaper, has said the new 30-billion-yen (\$205 million) plant would probably be located in northern Wales. It said Toyota was negotiating terms for a contract and would decide by early July on the location for the project.

Toyota announced earlier this year that it will build the com-

pany's first passenger car plant in Europe, located in the northern England town of Burnaston, to begin operation in 1992. The new assembly plant will eventually produce 200,000 subcompact cars a year and hire about 3,000 people.

Toyota officials have said the local content ratio at the new plant is expected to be 80 per cent.

Toyota also said it has recently received permission from the Pakistan government for a joint venture project to produce passenger cars in that Asian country, the official said.

The official said his company would carry out a feasibility study on launching a car-manufacturing project with the Habib Group, a major Pakistani business concern.

Britons, Saudis to make car batteries

RIYADH (R) — Chloride Group PLC of Britain is forming a joint venture with Saudi Arabia's National Industrialisation Company (NIC) to build a car battery plant, a NIC spokesman has said. Rayes Al Rayes said the \$2 million (yields \$13.9 million) plant was scheduled to produce 500,000 car batteries annually, a quarter of the kingdom's needs. Other types of batteries may be produced later. The U.K. firm will hold a 30 per cent share and NIC 70 per cent. No contract has yet been awarded to build the plant for the joint venture, to be known as the National Battery Manufacturing Company. The plant should be on-line by the middle of 1991, Rayes said.

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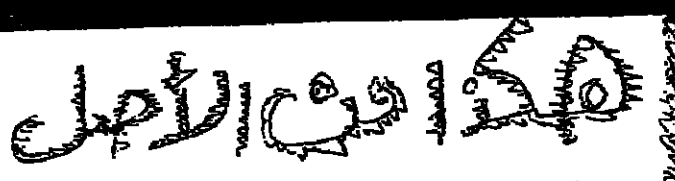
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ports broadcasting booms EU wins Olympics ter losing Wimbledon

ASSOL, Cyprus (AP) — European Broadcasting Union secured the television rights to the next Olympic Games, major sporting events, tennis rights to the Wimbledon championship, to a editor, president Albert ff said Sunday.

"In the case of Wimbledon we had offered five times more than last year," Schaff said.

"Nevertheless somebody came and offered eight times more, it was then that our members said, deliberately, well that's the end of the story."

"Wimbledon is a replaceable sport. There are so many tennis tournaments with the same players, the same quality. But it's different with the Olympic Games. You either have it or you don't."

The report submitted to the general assembly by the union's administrative council said that after the loss of Wimbledon, the EBU was able "to react rapidly and firmly with regard to the most important sporting events which were being coveted by newcomers."

The report said Wimbledon "was a lost battle which shows how the audiovisual picture has changed in Europe... the EBU is no longer in the position it occupied before, where it represented all broadcasters in our region."

Schaff said that the special television sports channel operated by the EBU, known as Eurosport, "is working and is apparently very attractive in the eyes of the audience. It's very successful."

But he added that it faced legal and technical problems connected with European anti-monopoly "legislation, which I hope we will soon solve."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

JUST A SPOT OR TWO AWAY

North vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 9 7 2
♥ 9 5
♦ Q 6 3
♣ 9 5 3

EAST
♠ A Q 3
♥ 10 8 7 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ K 7 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 6 2
♥ A J 10 9 7 4
♦ J
♣ J

bidding:
North East South
Pass 1♥ 2♦
3♦ 3NT 5♦
Pass DBL Pass

opening lead: King of ♠
riving to work out the play of a ♠ when the spot cards are given in "x" can be an exhausting cise. Quite often which spot a er possesses can be critical, as the case here.

ic North's enterprising raise to e diamonds with an honor in ner's suit and a king and ruffing e outside. As it happens, the was unnecessary, but fine tech-

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"When you play golf the way I do, you come prepared for ANYTHING!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MUHID

OUSLE

KOJECY

POATIE

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

Saturday's Jumble: GAUGE, BELIE, SCRIBE, DAINY

Answer: When the price of sugar escalated, the customers did this—RAISED "GANE"

SPORTS IN BRIEF

DA SILVA WINS FIRST STAGE OF TOUR DE FRANCE
— Acacio Da Silva of Portugal moved into the overall lead in the 76th Tour De France bicycle race Sunday by winning the 135-kilometre (84-mile) first stage through the Duchy of Luxembourg. A second stage, a team time trial, was scheduled for later Sunday. The competition, a 3,250-kilometre (2,020-mile) race that ends July 23 in Paris, opened Saturday with a prologue won by Eric Breukink of the Netherlands. Breukink, however, finished far back in the first leg Sunday and dropped out of the top 10 in the overall standings. His overall leader's yellow jersey went to Da Silva. Denmark's Soren Lilholt trailed De Silva by 13 seconds in the overall standings with Roland Leclerc of France 1:54 back. Pedro Delgado, the defending champion from Spain, was still near the end of the standings after starting nearly three minutes behind. He arrived at the starting line late for the prologue Saturday and was placed last. In the first stage, Da Silva, Lilholt and Leclerc made an early breakaway that eventually built up to more than 11 minutes ahead of the pack at the 100-kilometre (62.6-mile) mark. The gap narrowed to four minutes at the end. But the race was decided in the last hill, as Da Silva moved away to an eight-second victory over Lilholt in 3 hours, 21 minutes, 36 seconds. Leclerc was third with Belgium's Etienne De Wilde and Ireland's Sean Kelly leading the pack 4:40 behind the leaders. (AP)

SOUTH KOREA, IRAN DOMINATE THREE-DAY EVENT
— Iran and South Korea dominated the 6th Asian Amateur Wrestling Championships, winning six titles each in bouts that ended Sunday in Ohara. Japan. South Korean wrestlers also captured five silver and four bronze medals and won the Greco-Roman style team title in the three-day championships at Ohara Undokogym, northeast of Tokyo. Iran won the freestyle team championship. Japan took four golds, four silvers and five bronzes, and Mongolia earned three golds, one silver and two bronzes. In the Greco-Roman 68-kilogramme (150-pound) division, Japan's Yasuhiro Ohkubo upset South Korea's Seoul Olympic silver medalist Kim Sang-Kyu of South Korea took the 82-kilogramme title beating Jasim Brisam of Iran. In the freestyle 57-kilogramme class, South Korean Noh Kwong-Sun, another Olympic bronze medalist, won on a decision against Agha Mohammad of Iran. There was competition in 10 weight classes in each free and Greco-Roman style wrestling, but in the Greco-Roman competition, there was no champion in the 48-kilogramme (105-pound) class. Masanori Ohashi of Japan and Kwon Duk-Yong of South Korea fought to a scoreless draw in the final, and both were given silver medals. (AP)

MARTIN WINS MARATHON BY A HEAD — Juma Ikangaa of Tanzania won the men's race in meet record time while Australian Lisa Martin edged Japan's Chieko Matsukawa for the women's title in the times Sapporo half-marathon Sunday in Japan. After running shoulder to shoulder with Japan's Kenji Ide, Ikangaa spurred with four kilometres (2.5 miles) left and crossed the finish line 35 seconds ahead of compatriot Simon Mrashani. Ikangaa covered 21.0975 kilometres (13.98 miles) in 1 hour, 2 minutes, 56 seconds, against Mrashani's 1:03:31. Japan's Taisuke Kodawa was third in 1:03:42, followed by Hirofumi Yoneda in 1:03:47. Ide finished fifth in 1:03:59. In the women's race, Martin, the marathon silver medalist in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and two Japanese — Matsukawa and Sachiko Yamashita — entered the stadium together for the last 580 metres. Martin edged Matsukawa at the finish line. (AP)

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE
by Thomas Peterson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:
This Independence Day can be an exciting time with plenty of opportunity to learn and explore. Love interests strengthen. The home environment can hold surprises.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Continue with your current, positive attitude for success. Never comes from a distance. There is plenty to discuss this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Jealousy can exist over a partner's successful activities. Build trust and emphasize the tender side of a love relationship.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your eyes are fixed on some fast cash. Take the leap, but avoid outright gambling. Stick to common sense financial procedures.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You make new starts this week. If you can master up the initiative. Even a bad choice turns out well. Try your luck with Cupid.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A misunderstanding heals. Forget the past and put it behind you. Give a little more when a sacrifice is called for. You win in the end!

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may not be giving yourself credit where credit is due. Recognize your own wisdom and talents. Give siblings more time and attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Someone with a stubborn attitude will bend a little now. Pressures exist trying to meet a deadline. Give yourself greater attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your domestic life receives a pleasant reorganization during the next few days. Intuition surrounding financial matters is strong.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) New business negotiations are favorable. You have lots of enthusiasm and motivation. Keep restless irritability in check.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can have success where others fail. You gain from reading, correspondence, and verbal chat-chat. Expect positive financial surprises.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) It may be difficult to keep promises made today. You have more work than you can finish. There is success in small things.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Fight off negative thinking. The future holds bright opportunity. Whatever you decide will be correct.

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea E. Shipp

ACROSS
1 Sonar in Eng.
6 Grain mixture
10 A Lange
14 Spode
16 Commedia dell'
18 Okla. town
17 School VIP
19 Peak
20 Squirming
21 Eyelid
22 Problem: var.
23 Poker statement
24 Mide
26 Be false
28 — Beh
29 Find out
30 Water illness
32 Consume
35 Emerge
36 Inter —
37 Retained
38 Veldt
40 Pose
42 Small stock quantities
46 State
47 Society: abbr.
48 Perfection on some scales
49 — Na Na
52 Some parties
55 Penache
57 — shall we three —
58 Luxurious
59 Obstinate
61 Help
62 Shell
63 Football's Lombard
64 Afternoon functions
65 Fr. river
68 Harden

DOWN
1 Yearned
2 Diaphanous
3 TV knobs
4 500
5 Cured wheel
6 Golf tournament
7 Bohemian
8 Skyline sight
9 HRH word
10 Savage
11 Formerly
12 Cotton type
13 Biographer
14 Lion
15 Burmese e.g.
22 Whit
24 Shelter
26 — Paul
28 Kruger
29 Low beams
30 Reason d —
31 Beginning
32 Maine
33 Topped out
34 Cheesy coat
35 Changed
36 slumps
40 Set's problem
41 Looks up
42 Bullfighter
43 Kilo and cent
44 Study
45 Glistened
50. Thawed
51 He gives show paper
52 TW
53 The best is yet —
54 On the briny
56 Kind of duck
57 Legal
59 Forage
60 Some sets

WIMBLEDON

Chang forced out; seeds struggle

LONDON (R) — Seventeen-year-old Michael Chang, who became the youngest ever winner of a grand slam tournament when he triumphed in the French Open last month, fell in the fourth round at Wimbledon Monday, crushed by the powerful grass-court game of fellow-American Tim Mayotte.



Michael Chang in action

Mayotte, the eighth seed, from Bradenton, Florida, won 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the sixth time since his first visit here in 1981. He will now play title-holder Stefan Edberg of Sweden, who beat 16th-seeded Amos Mansdorf 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

The grass courts of the All England Club are a favourite playground for Mayotte, suiting his heavy-hitting and volleying strength in the forecourt.

For all his resilience as a competitor, the ninth-seeded Chang, a backcourt player, was always likely to be vulnerable and so it proved as he salvaged only seven games in a one-sided contest.

In the women's singles, Martina Navratilova reached the quarter-finals here for the 15th year in a row but was the only surviving seed in the bottom half of the draw after Helena Sukova and Mary Joe Fernandez, the sixth and 12th seeds, both lost.

Navratilova, the second seed who is seeking a record ninth singles title here, scored her 29th win in 36 meetings, with Hana Mandlikova of Australia, the 14th seed, her superior serve-and-volley game seeing her through 6-3, 6-2.

French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez, 17, of Spain, beaten in the first round on her two previous Wimbledon visits, joined Navratilova in the last eight with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 win over American 15th seed Lori McNeil.

But elsewhere, particularly in the women's competition, seeds struggled to survive, and more often than not failed to do so. Czechoslovak Sukova, a serve-

and-volleyer who would have expected to take her appointed place in the last eight, was beaten by unseeded Swede Catarina Lindqvist, whose 6-4, 7-6 win put her into the quarter-finals here for the second time. She reached the same stage in 1986.

Fernandez's defeat was less surprising, the sturdy grass-court game of unseeded South African Ros Fairbank, a Wimbledon quarter-finalist last year, eventually overwhelming her. Fairbank won 6-4, 2-6, 6-0, conceding just seven points in the deciding set.

Fairbank will now play Lindqvist for a place in the semifinals against either Navratilova or unseeded American Gretchen Magers, who won her fourth-round match against Joanne Fuell of Australia 6-7, 6-1, 6-0.

The rout of the women's seeds continued when Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia disappeared from the top half of the women's draw, unseeded Italian Laura Golarsa beating the 10th seed 7-6, 2-6, 6-4.

Navratilova, ranked in the top four of women's tennis since 1975, remains one of the fittest and best-prepared players on the circuit, and against Mandlikova she made this tell.

In terms of ability, there is little to choose between the two players but Navratilova's physical and mental strength make her a far more dangerous competitor and nearly all the close games, of which there were several, went her way.

Navratilova broke for a 4-2 lead in the first set, was broken herself in the next game but immediately re-established her two-game advantage, capturing Mandlikova's service a second time with a wickedly-angled backhand cross-court return and a forehand down the line.

She served out the set and from 1-40 down in the second, won five games in a row to give Mandlikova no way back into the match.

Sanchez, deprived of the big crowds she loves by being put on court 14, suffered a lapse of concentration against McNeil when she was serving for the first set. Though she broke straight back to take the set, the Spaniard let her game slip in the second.

She had to come back from 15-40 to hold her second service game and was then broken twice in succession as McNeil began to play Sanchez at her own game, chasing every ball around the court.

But an argument between the two players as Sanchez served at the start of the deciding set tilted the Spanish teenager back into winning mode.

At game point Sanchez missed McNeil had hit the ball twice on one shot. McNeil demed the change and the umpire had to order both players to continue the game.

Helped by two McNeil double faults, Sanchez broke for a 3-1 lead and won the next three games to finish off the match in 95 minutes.

Sanchez, whose chances at doing well at the tournament were generally discounted before it began because of her limited grass-court experience, said "I'm learning a lot on these courts. The more I learn, the more I like them."

Wildenstein fumes, but Sheriff's Star wins

PARIS (R) — Top owner Daniel Wildenstein was highly critical of jockey Gary Moore's riding of Mill Pond after his horse Star Lift, hot favourite for the group one Grand Prix De Saint Cloud, had been beaten into fourth place behind English raider Sheriff's Star Sunday.

Sheriff's Star, with Tony Ives on board, had a head to spare over Golden Pheasant with Boyatino a short head away in third and Star Lift, ridden by Cash Assmussen, another length behind.

Wildenstein was left fuming after Mill Pond almost brought down Star Lift a furlong (200 metres) out.

Moore was suspended for four days but Wildenstein said: "Moore should have got a month's suspension for that performance."

Mitchell's homers keep flowing

NEW YORK (AP) — Kevin Mitchell not only keeps hitting home runs, he keeps hitting important ones.

"That's as big a run as I've hit all year," Mitchell said after his two-run homer capped a three-run rally in the eighth inning Sunday and gave the San Francisco Giants a 4-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

"It was clutch," Mitchell said. "We really needed this win. Maybe this will be the spark that gets us going."

With the Giants trailing 3-1, pinch-hitter Greg Litton led off with a single off Rick Sutcliffe, 9-6. Litton was forced at second by Brent Butler.

"Sutcliffe was pitching me away all day," Mitchell said. "It surprised me because the wind was blowing that way. I knew I had a shot the moment I hit it."

In other games, San Diego beat St. Louis 5-2, Montreal beat Houston 13-2, New York beat Cincinnati 7-2, Los Angeles beat Pittsburgh 3-2 and Atlanta beat Philadelphia 3-1.

Padres 5, Cardinals 2
Bruce Hurst pitched his fourth complete game and triggered a four-run third inning with his second major-league hit. He entered the game 1-for-35.

Marvyn Wynn helped San Diego take advantage of first baseman Pedro Guerrero's error by hitting a three-run double off Jose DeLeon, 8-8.

Expos 13, Astros 2
Bryn Smith drove in four of Montreal's season-high 13 runs with a three-run double in a six-run second and an RBI single in a four-run third. The Expos had 19 hits and led 10-0 after three innings.

Tom Foley had four hits and drove in three runs and Dave Martinez and Mike Fitzgerald had three hits each.

Mets 7, Reds 2
Howard Johnson hit his 22nd home run and doubled twice as the

Peanuts



B.C.

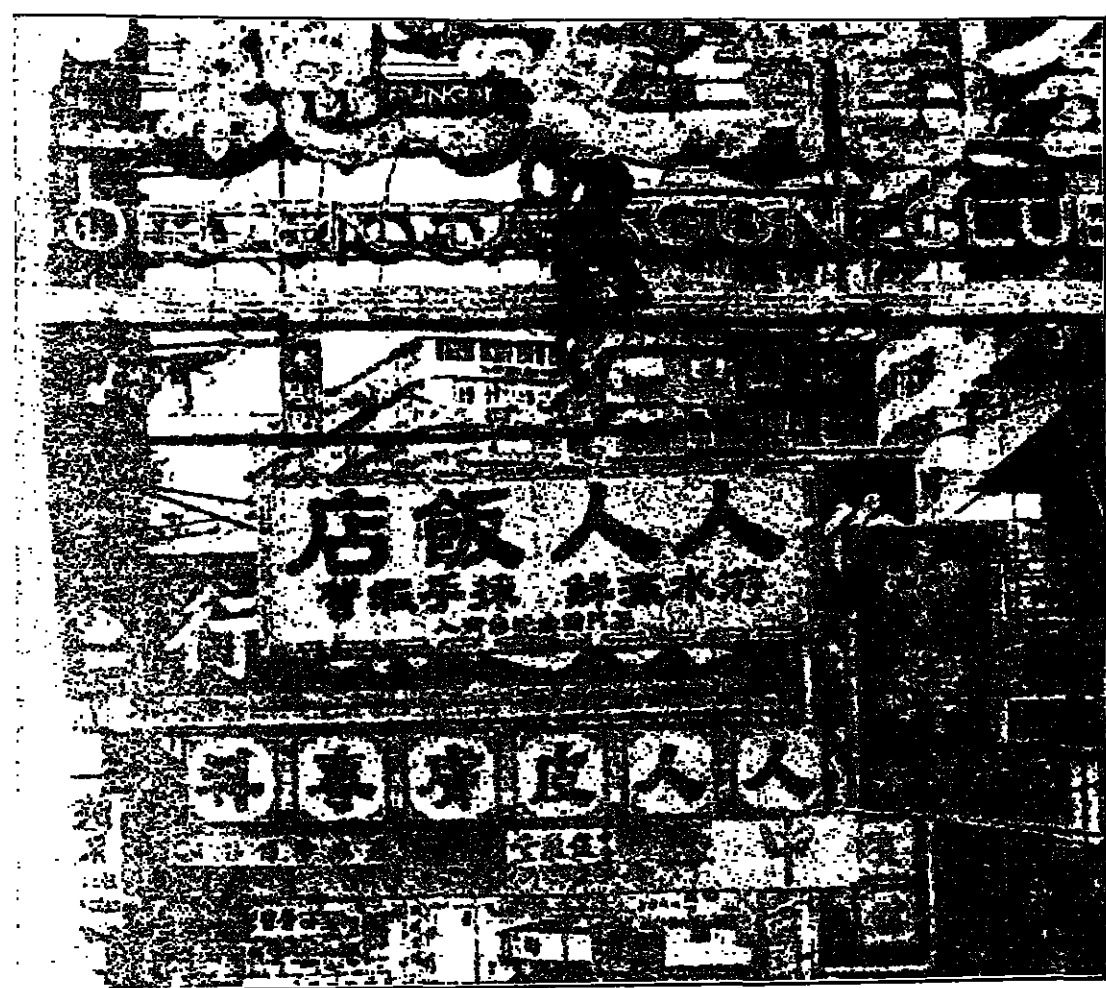
editor

BY JOHNNY HART



Andy Capp





Bombing Hong Kong, whose citizens expected a message of hope from Sir Geoffrey Howe

Howe rules out refuge for Hong Kong people

HONG KONG (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Monday rejected appeals from Hong Kong residents that Britain offer them refuge from China when the colony is turned over to the communist nation in 1997.

Howe also denied that the decision was racial.

As Howe concluded the luncheon speech in which he outlined Britain's position, protesters unfurled a banner inside the hall that read, "Shame on the Thatcher government."

"This... speech is insulting the intelligence of Hong Kong Chinese. We protest and we walk out," shouted Lee Wing Tat, an elected local community leader who left the hall with about eight other demonstrators.

Such angry public outbursts are extremely rare in this British colony, and demonstrated the degree of bitterness many of Hong Kong's 5.7 million people feel over London's refusal to grant them the right to live in Britain.

Hong Kong residents have demanded the right since June 3-4

when China brutally suppressed the pro-democracy movement in Peking and launched a crackdown against dissent.

Although more than three million Hong Kong Chinese are eligible for British passports, they are not allowed to live in Britain. Howe made clear that the policy will not change fundamentally.

"The plain fact is that there is simply no way that the British government could grant to several million people the right to come and live in Britain," Howe told about 250 community leaders.

"It dismay me that some have suggested that this is a matter of race. It is nothing of the sort," Howe said. "It is a practical problem on an enormous scale" that would test Britain's capacity in housing, employment and transportation, he said.

Howe indicated that some Hong Kong Chinese who have provided valuable service to the colony would be allowed to settle in Britain, but he provided no details.

He also said Britain would open its doors to Hong Kong residents and mobilise the international community to do the same "if things did go catastrophically wrong" in the territory.

Britain also is considering speeding up a local democratic reform programme and drafting a bill of rights for the colony to help safeguard the future of Hong Kong residents.

Howe expressed concern about a clause in the constitution for post-1997 Hong Kong, being drafted by China, that could allow Peking authorities to declare a state of emergency in the territory.

Howe is in Hong Kong on a three-day fact-finding mission to gauge opinion in the colony after the Chinese army gunned down unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators around Peking's Tiananmen Square.

While expressing disgust over the crackdown, Howe said the 1984 British-Chinese agreement that returns Hong Kong to China in 1997 remains valid.

Indians launch offensive against Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (AP) — Indian peacekeeping troops in Sri Lanka have launched a major sweep against Tamil rebels operation on the island's north and east, military officials said Monday.

The officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said a dusk-to-dawn to curfew had been imposed in many towns in the area since Saturday but added that other details were not immediately available.

A spokeswoman at the Indian high commission, or embassy, did not deny that the offensive was under way but said she did not have details.

Indian newspapers said the offensive, code-named "Operation Toofan," was launched 10 days ago and involved thousands of troops backed by helicopter gunships. Toofan means storm in the Hindi language.

Last week, President Ranasinghe Premadasa asked India to cease operations against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the main rebel militia. The Indian government refused, saying a decision could only be taken after the Tigers surrendered arms and refrained from violence.

Premadasa's appeal followed an agreement between his government and the Tigers to stop fighting each other. The two sides have been holding talks since May, their first direct contact since the rebels launched a war for an independent Tamil homeland in 1983.

India became involved in the Tamil war because of the sympathies of its own 60 million Tamils for the rebel cause. The peacekeeping soldiers were deployed in July 1987, initially to supervise an arms surrender by the rebels after a peace accord gave Tamils limited autonomy.

But the Tigers reneged on the accord that fall and began attacking the Indian soldiers.

The New Delhi government has also refused Premadasa's request to withdraw its troops by the end of July.

Tamils form 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and claim they are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of the population and control the government and the military.



Polish riot police clash with about 50 protesters who tried to march on the Communist Party's central committee building in Warsaw, calling for party leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski to resign.

Solidarity proposes forming government

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity publicly proposed Monday that it should form a government in exchange for backing a Communist Party candidate in this week's Polish presidential elections.

The free trade union's official newspaper said Poland needed a new political arrangement that could be supported by all political forces while guaranteeing continuity.

"Such a set-up would be an agreement under which the president will be a candidate of the PZPR (Communist Party) and the premier's portfolio and mission of forming a government would be given to a candidate of Solidarity," the newspaper said in a front-page article.

Political sources said at the weekend some leaders of the Communist-dominated governing coalition had already raised the possibility of a Solidarity leader becoming prime minister.

They suggested Professor Bronislaw Geremek, 57, Solidarity's leading political strategist, for the post.

The article in Gazeta Wyborcza (Election Gazette) was signed by its editor Adam Michnik, a veteran dissident and Solidarity adviser who was elected to parliament when the union won a landslide victory in partly-free elections last month.

Michnik and Jacek Kuron, another senior Solidarity adviser

and parliamentary deputy, proposed the idea of a Solidarity government in exchange for a Communist president at a meeting of the union's 260 legislators Saturday.

"Such a (Communist) president would guarantee continuity of the authorities and of international accords and military alliances," Michnik wrote.

"Such a (Solidarity) government would have a mandate from the huge majority of Poles and would guarantee a subsequent change of the economic and political system."

"This would be an arrangement credible for Poland and the world," he added.

The presidential election was thrown open Friday when Communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski stepped aside and proposed Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak instead.

Jaruzelski said he could not overcome the stigma of having imposed martial law in 1981.

Political sources said he was unable to gather a majority in the 560-member National Assembly, comprising both houses of parliament, which elects the president.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has said Jaruzelski is unacceptable to the nation. He threw his weight behind Kiszczak as a trustworthy partner who negotiated a political reform pact with Solidarity in April.

But the Communist Party has not endorsed Kiszczak and has asked Jaruzelski to reconsider. The Pansani and Democratic parties allied to the Communists have delayed making a choice.

With the Communists and their allies divided, Solidarity's 260 legislators appear to have the decisive votes in the electoral assembly.

Michnik said the issue could not be reduced to a competition between the virtues of the two generals.

"Poland needs now a strong and credible system of power. A change of appearances is not enough, like for example replacing one candidate for president by another..."

"The question is not about people but about mechanisms. What we need is a new arrangement that can be approved by all the main political forces, new but guaranteeing continuity."

Solidarity has previously said it will not join the government as a junior partner to the communists and is not ready to form its own government.

However, political sources said it now appeared to be aiming for control of a "government of experts" — non-partisan technocrats who would hold Poland out of deepening economic and political crisis.

Aquino firm on Marcos

MANILA (R) — Deposed Philippine leader Ferdinand Marcos will not be allowed back to his homeland dead or alive, President Corazon Aquino said Monday.

Aquino said she was opposed to the return of Marcos, 71, because of the potential trouble his supporters could cause. The former president is near death in a Honolulu hospital.

Aquino said in an interview with Reuters and the International television news agency Visnews that she was confident security was good enough for her to leave the country Saturday for Europe. "I would not leave if I thought the country was in a precarious state," said Aquino, 56, who has

survived five coup attempts since Marcos was overthrown in a popular revolt in 1986.

I am confident that even with my leaving the country and staying away for a week that we have enough safeguards to ensure that this government will continue and that the government will be able to address any situation where the stability of this government would be endangered," she stated during the 40-minute interview at Manila's Malacanang Palace.

Aquino will be pressing for extra financial assistance and relief on the country's \$28 billion debt during her July 9-15 visit to West Germany, France and Belgium.

She said rebels within the military had been rooted out and no longer had troops under their command since the bloody August 1987 coup attempt when at least 53 people were killed.

"The undesirable elements have been weeded out and the good elements of the military are in place and are able to perform their functions according to the dictates of our constitution," Aquino stated.

Asked if she was opposed to the return of Marcos even when he died, the president said: "Yes, I am because I believe that at this time it is not in the national interest to allow Mr. Marcos to come back."

'Tourism' prompted Cuban general to traffick drugs

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A former major general in the Cuban military testified at his court-martial that he trafficked drugs because he wanted to invest in tourism projects like hotels, the Cuban news agency said Sunday.

Arnoldo Ochoa Sanchez is one of 15 high-ranking military officers charged with high treason and trafficking in cocaine, diamonds and ivory.

They were stripped of their rank and expelled from the Communist Party last week. Three major generals began hearing the case Friday. The 15 could face the firing squad if convicted.

In a related development, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hector Argiles said that Reuters correspondent Gilles Trequesser was expelled Sunday for "falsely and maliciously" reporting that two Communist Party officials wanted asylum in a foreign embassy.

Argiles was quoted by the

Cuban government news agency Prensa Latina as saying that Trequesser filed the offending article Saturday and was expelled at 8 a.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday. He said Trequesser is the third Reuters correspondent expelled, but gave no details.

"It is Cuba's policy to take such measures against correspondents accredited in the country when they falsify the truth with evident malicious intention," Argiles said.

Prensa Latina said Trequesser reported that Osmani Cienfuegos, a member of the Council of State and of the ruling Communist Party's Political Bureau, and Abraham Maciques, president of the state trading corporation Cubanacan, had asked for asylum at an unnamed foreign embassy.

Argiles said Trequesser "falsely and maliciously" linked "the alleged search for asylum" with the drug case.

According to Prensa Latina Ochoa and two aides, Jorge Martinez and Antonio Rodriguez, admitted their actions "seriously endangered the prestige, morality and dignity of Cuba, its armed forces, people and government."

Earlier dispatches from Havana said the defendants belonged to a secret division of the Interior Ministry that smuggled medicine, hospital supplies and computers to circumvent a U.S. trade embargo. One of the defendants is former Interior Minister Jose Abrantes.

Ochoa said Sunday that he was "thinking big" when he decided to become involved in international drug trafficking in 1987, Prensa Latina said.

He said he planned to invest large amounts of money in hotel construction but did not intend to turn the island into a drug trafficking centre.

COLUMN

Snakes kill lion, wolves at zoo

NEW DELHI (R) — Snakes have killed a lion and two wolves at a zoo in the north Indian city of Kanpur, the United News of India reported Monday. It said the animals had been found dead of snake bites in their enclosures at the zoo, set in 75 acres of woodland. Forest guards had saved a leopard by chasing away a snake preparing to attack. The agency did not identify the type of snakes responsible.

Longer life in Vietnam

BANGKOK (AP) — Want to live long? Then go live in Vietnam, where 2,432 people are 100 or older and the oldest is a 142-year-old woman, according to the Vietnam News Agency. Chances of living long are much higher for women than men. Female centenarians outnumber males 1,728 to 704, the official agency said in a report monitored Monday in Bangkok. While the Guinness Book of world records lists the oldest documented person as having lived to 120, the central census guidance board says Vietnam's most senior citizen is Ngan Thi Quang, 142 — a member of an ethnic Thai minority group living in the central part of the country. The oldest man, a full twelve years behind her at 130 was identified as Hoang A Giang, a member of the Hmoog ethnic minority living in the northern province of Hoang Lien Son, the report said.

'Chickpeas can fight cholesterol'

TEL AVIV (R) — Health officials in Tel Aviv have urged Israelis to eat more hummus, a chickpea paste popular in the Middle East, to decrease the risk of heart attack. A municipality statement said hummus and olive oil — usually eaten together — lowered the likelihood of heart attacks caused by foods high in cholesterol content. It said tests given to 2,000 residents showed one in four faced a high risk of heart attack because of cholesterol.

Batman 'too busy'

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Adam West, the Batman of television fame years ago, says he has been too busy to see the new Batman movie and that he is content to leave the crime fighting to Michael Keaton's new version of the fictional character. "I guess if anyone should see it, I should," he said Tuesday while in town for a return of his 1966 Batman movie. "I've been too busy. But I'm very curious." West, speaking in the same measured tones Batman used while facing urban menaces, said he would have liked to star in the new movie. "But I would not have been well casted," he said. "They have a different vision. People would expect the same thing Batman was before — light-hearted." When the television show first left the air in 1968, West found himself hopelessly typecast.

Lightning panic kills 1,600 chickens

BELGRADE (R) — More than 1,600 panic-stricken chickens suffocated after a bolt of lightning caused a total electricity failure at a Yugoslav farm. Terrified by the flash in the sky and the sudden darkness, the farm's stock of 10,000 chickens tried to flee into one corner of their enclosure, causing the farm at cerkine in the Slovenian republic losses of 30 million dinars (\$5,200), Tanjug news agency said Monday.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	12	54	22 Wind
ATHENS	21	70	24 Wind
BAHRAIN	29	84	37 Wind
BANGKOK	27	81	35 Wind
BELGRADE	22	55	10 Wind
CAIRO	21	70	17 Wind
CHICAGO	13	55	31 Wind
COPENHAGEN	10	50	21 Wind
FRANKFURT	11	52	18 Wind
GENEVA	10	54	24 Wind
HONG KONG	28	82	30 Wind
ISTANBUL	21	70	30 Wind
LONDON	12	54	24 Wind
LOS ANGELES	17	63	27 Wind
MADRID	16	61	35 Wind
MEXICO	27	81	44 Wind
MONTREAL	18	61	28 Wind
MOSCOW	16	61	22 Wind
NEW DELHI	28	80	37 Wind
NEW YORK	17	68	30 Wind
PARIS	15	59	21 Wind
ROME	11	52	21 Wind
SYDNEY	11	52	21 Wind
TOKYO	15	68	18 Wind
VIENNA	16	61	24 Wind

LDP gets big setback in Tokyo polls

TOKYO (R) — Disgruntled Tokyo voters dealt Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) a serious setback Monday in municipal elections seen as a prelude to national parliamentary elections later this month.

Voters were angered by a combination of an LDP-sponsored sales tax, the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal and a series of sex allegations involving Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, political analysts said.

LDP Secretary-General Ryutaro Hashimoto said the result was regrettable. "We see that popular distrust towards politics is concentrated on our party," he added.

Political analysts said the party's

dismal performance would increase pressure on embattled Premier Uno to resign, only a month after he succeeded Noboru Takeshita, forced out of office by the Recruit affair.

The party won only 43 of the 128 seats against the 63 it held before voting took place Sunday. It had hoped to keep at least 50 seats and retain control against a fragmented opposition unable to muster a working majority.

Now it will probably be forced to enlist at least one of the other parties as an ally in order to stay in power, political analysts said.

The Japan Socialist Party was the biggest beneficiary of the LDP disarray, winning 29 seats.

up from 11. The Socialists also claimed they had the loyalty of seven independents.

Socialist Party Chairman Takako Doi, the only woman party leader in Japan, said in a television interview the results showed she was on track for victory in the July 23 elections for the upper house of parliament and possibly in subsequent elections for the more important lower chamber.

"We're at the first stage of our hop, step, jump into office," she said.

Women voters, who accounted for more than 60 per cent of the turnout, were seen as a key factor in the LDP's losses. A record number of women candidates ran for election and

a record 17 won.

"The fact that the sex scandal had such a big impact shows that Japanese society is changing," said Michitoshi Takahatake, professor of politics at Rikkyo University's. In the past, revelations of extramarital affairs involving politicians were commonplace.

Toshihiko Hara, a political science professor at Tokai University, said men were angry at the LDP too.

"The fact that Uno was said to be whining about resigning is a great departure from the traditional Japanese ideal of manliness. He should have kept quiet and taken responsibility for his alleged misbehaviour," Hara said.

Marxists detained in Bangladesh

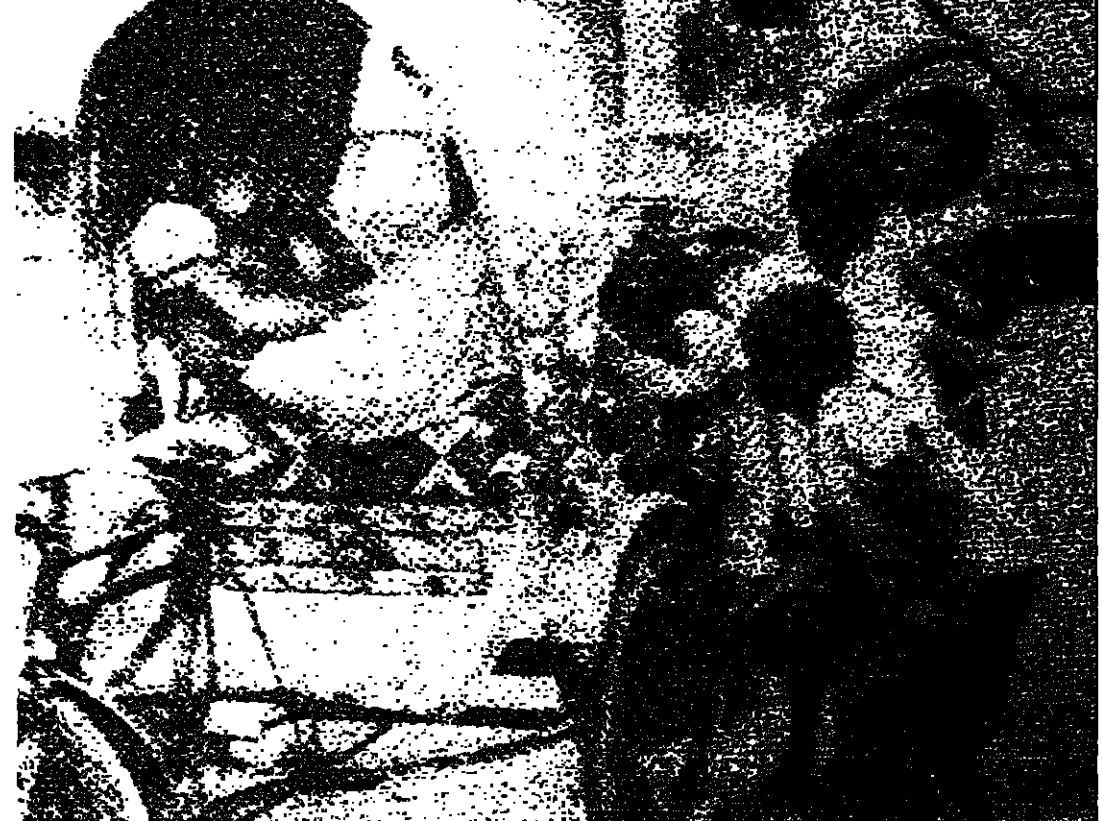
DHAKA (AP) — Police have arrested 168 suspected Marxist activists in a special drive against political violence, official sources said Monday.

The Interior Ministry sources said the detainees belong to the outlawed East Bengal Sharbahara Party, or East Bengal Proletariat Party. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said the arrests were made last month in the districts of Rajshahi in the north, Khulna in the southwest and Dhaka.

The Sharbahara Party, which advocates armed struggle to capture state power, is responsible for at least 100 political killings this year, the sources said.

They said police also arrested 143 non-Marxists during the sweep on charges of various kinds of violence, including use of homemade bombs for political purposes. The sources refused to give details.



Children attack a rickshawpuller resting on his vehicle in an empty Dhaka street during a strike, which was called by opposition parties to protest heavy taxes levied in the recently introduced fiscal 1989-90 Bangladesh national budget.